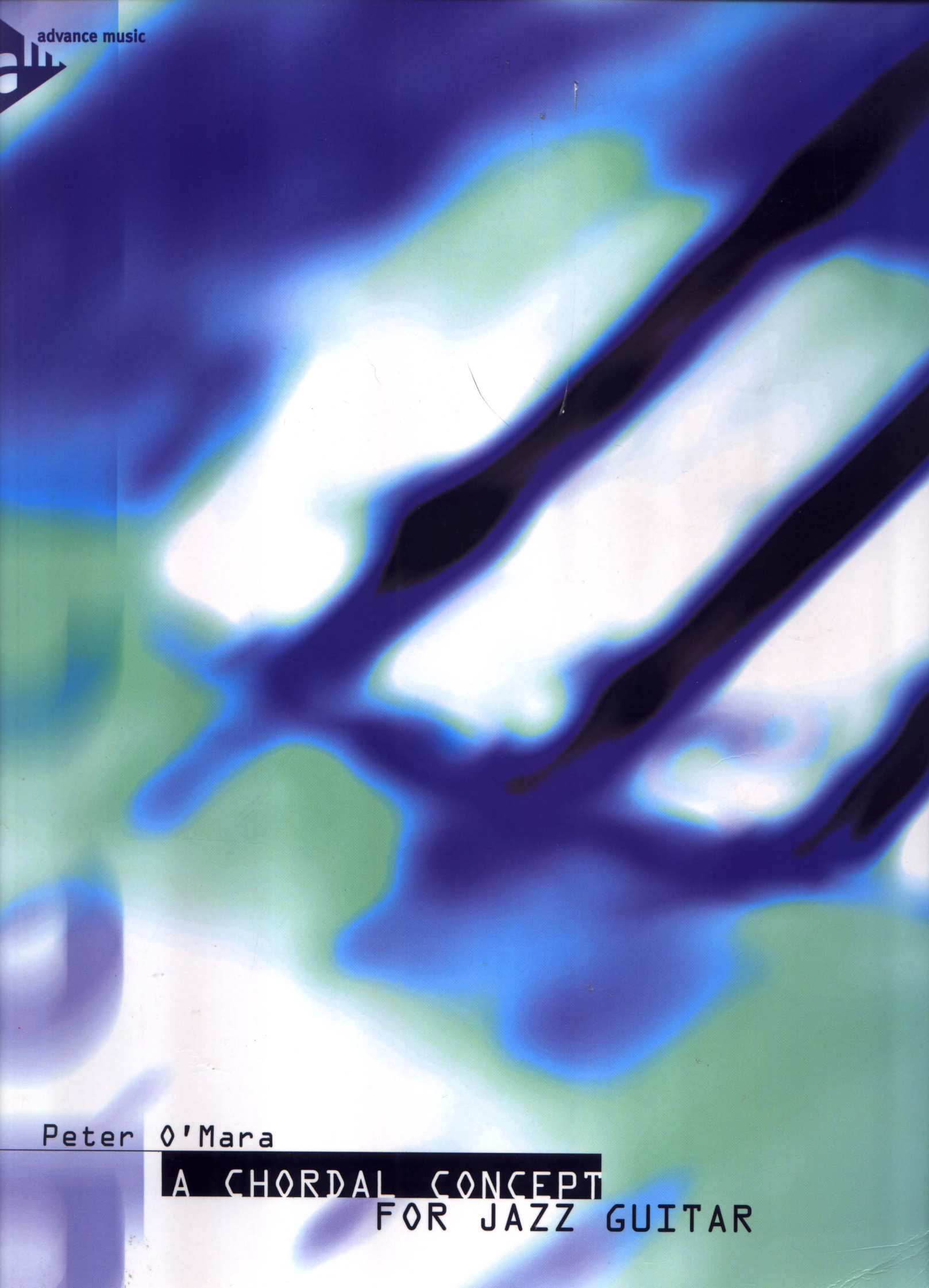




Peter O'Mara

A CHORDAL CONCEPT
FOR JAZZ GUITAR

Contents

Introduction	8
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Chapter 1 – Triads **9**

Major Triads	10
Minor Triads	12
Major Augmented Triads	14
Major #11 Triads	15
Diminished Triads	16
Triads With Added Ninth	17
Minor #5 Triads	20
 ▲ GEORGIA	21
▲ STAIRWAY	22

Chapter 2 – Seventh Chords **25**

Major 7 th Voicing Exercises	26
Major 7#11 Shapes & Inversions	27
Major 7#5 Shapes & Inversions	28
Major 7 th Conversion Exercises	29
Diminished 7 th Chords	30
Dominant 7 th Shapes & Inversions	31
Minor 7 th Shapes & Inversions	32
Minor 7 th b5 Shapes & Inversions	33
Minor Maj 7 th Shapes & Inversions	34
Major 7#5 Shapes	35
Root Position Exercises	36
II-V-I Voicing Exercises	37
Drop-Three Voicings	38
Reduced 7 th Chord Forms	40
Three-Note Comping Using “Stable” Notes	42

Chapter 3 – Extended 7th Chords **45**

Major 7 th Matrix	46
Minor 7 th Matrix	50
Dominant 7 th Matrix	53
Extended Diminished 7 th Chords	63
Diminished 7 th – Dominant 7 th Substitution Rule	66
 ▲ BODY & SOUL	67
▲ IN YOUR OWN SWEET WAY	68

Chapter 4 – Extending 7th Chords Using Ascending Relative Thirds **69**

Other Substitute Possibilities For 7 th Chords	70
Practical Applications: II-V-I Combinations	72
IIø-V-I Progressions (Minor)	73
Exotic Examples (Extended Shapes For –7b5)	75
Upper Structure 7 th Chord Substitutes (No 3 rd)	76
Some Examples Over Standard Chord Progressions	77
– Jazz Blues	77
– Standard	78
– Rhythm Changes	79

Chapter 5 – 4th Chords (Quartal Harmony)

81

Examples Of Modal Usage Of 4 th Chords	82
Comping A Minor Blues Using 4 th Chords	83
“Miles” 4 th Chords	84

Chapter 6 – Clusters

85

Major, Minor & Dominant Cluster Sounds	87
Comping A Standard Using Three-Note Clusters	91
▲ THE GIFT	92
▲ ALL BLUES	94

Chapter 7 – Intervallic Comping

95

Standard Chord Progression	98
Other Possibilities For Chord Construction	99
“Scale Skipping”	100
Harmonic Minor Scale Voicings	102
Melodic Minor Scale Voicings	103
▲ SECRET LOVE	104
▲ VERY EARLY	106
▲ STELLA BY STARLIGHT	108

Chapter 8 – Slash Chords

109

Major Triads As “Upper Structure” Slash Chords	110
Major Augmented Triads As “Upper Structure” Slash Chords	114
Minor Triads As “Upper Structure” Slash Chords	116
Diminished Triads As “Upper Structure” Slash Chords	119
Combination Exercises	123
Standard Chord Progression	124
▲ COSTA DEL SOL	125
▲ LAKES	126
▲ OMAHA CELEBRATION	128

Appendix

130

▲ EXPRESSIONS	130
▲ THREE	132
In Closing	134
About The Author	135

INTRODUCTION

The idea behind this book is to provide the progressive guitarist with a comprehensive overview of chordal structures on the guitar fingerboard. Starting with triads, then working through 7th and 9th chords and further extensions, chord substitution relationships and practical examples over standard chord progressions, I've tried to present here a chordal concept based on logic rather than just memorized shapes.

This book is not for beginners!

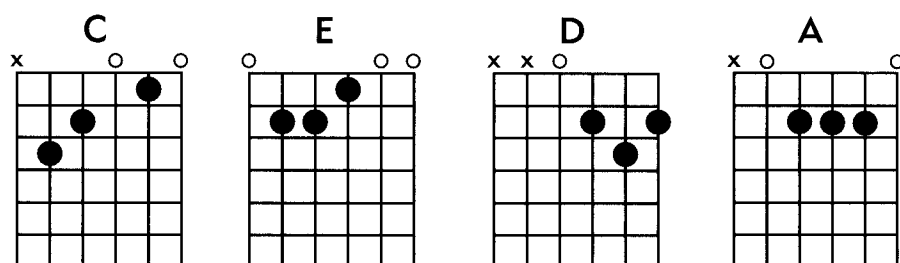
However, after many years of performing and teaching jazz guitar, I've come to some conclusions about learning chords and hope that this book will make it easier for today's guitarist to understand the complex chordal structures used in contemporary jazz.

Peter O'Mara

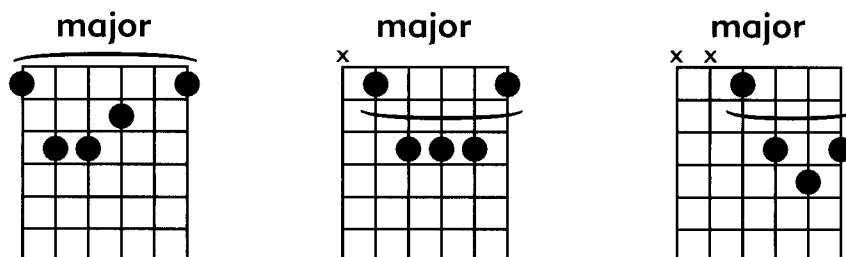
Chapter 1

TRIADS

Going back to our first days of playing guitar, we learned a few basic chords to be able to play those songs we were hearing on the radio. Those chords often used open strings, so we were stuck when a song was in the key of "F"! To overcome this problem, we learned a few "bar-chords." Now we were set! But then along came those more complex jazz chords and we forgot about the basic triads we had learned at the beginning. Let's take a new look at them.



The "bar-chord" fingerings were:



One problem with these chords is that they often double a note: two roots or fifths. That's a good "fat" sound for pop guitar but we don't necessarily want to "waste" a note when playing contemporary music. The fingerings on the following pages show various possibilities for triads without doubling notes.

MAJOR TRIADS

Close Position

● Root Position

Diagrammatic fingerings for Root Position triads (V):

- C: V (Finger 1 on C, 2 on E, 3 on G)
- F: V (Finger 1 on F, 2 on A, 3 on C)
- B $\flat$: V (Finger 1 on B $\flat$, 2 on D, 3 on F)
- E $\flat$: V (Finger 1 on E $\flat$, 2 on G, 3 on B $\flat$)

● First Inversion

Diagrammatic fingerings for First Inversion triads (V):

- G: V (Finger 1 on G, 2 on B, 3 on D)
- C: V (Finger 1 on C, 2 on E, 3 on G)
- F: V (Finger 1 on F, 2 on A, 3 on C)
- B $\flat$: V (Finger 1 on B $\flat$, 2 on D, 3 on F)

● Second Inversion

Diagrammatic fingerings for Second Inversion triads (VII and VIII):

- F: VII (Finger 1 on F, 2 on A, 3 on C)
- B $\flat$: VII (Finger 1 on B $\flat$, 2 on D, 3 on F)
- E $\flat$: VII (Finger 1 on E $\flat$, 2 on G, 3 on B $\flat$)
- A $\flat$: VIII (Finger 1 on A $\flat$, 2 on C, 3 on E)

▲ Turnaround Exercise I-IV-V-I

Chord sequence for Turnaround Exercise I-IV-V-I:

C F G C F B $\flat$ C F B $\flat$ E $\flat$ F B $\flat$ E $\flat$ A $\flat$ B $\flat$ E $\flat$

Wide Form Inversions

● Root Positions & Inversions

Diagram illustrating the relationship between Root Position and Inversions for C major triads:

Root Position: C (C4, E4, G4)

First Inversion: C/E (E4, G4, C5)

Second Inversion: C/G (G4, C5, E5)

Triad Fingerings (Left Hand):

- Root Position (C): VIII (C4), III (E4), X (G4)
- First Inversion (C/E): X (E4), V (G4), I (C5)
- Second Inversion (C/G): II (G4), IX (C5), V (E5)

▲ Turnaround Exercises

Exercise 1:

Chord sequence: C (VIII), F/C (VII), G/B (V), C (VIII), F (VIII), B $\flat$ /F (VII), C/E (V), F (VIII), B $\flat$ (VIII), E $\flat$ /B $\flat$ (VIII), F/A (VI), B $\flat$ (VIII).

Exercise 2:

Chord sequence: G/B (V), C (V), D/A (IV), G/B (V), C/E (V), F (V), G/D (IV), C/E (V), F/A (VI), B $\flat$ (VI), C/G (V), F/A (VI).

Exercise 3:

Chord sequence: F/C (VII), B $\flat$ /D (VIII), C (VIII), F/C (VII), B $\flat$ /F (VII), E $\flat$ /G (VIII), F (VIII), B $\flat$ /F (VII), E $\flat$ /B $\flat$ (VIII), A $\flat$ /C (IX), B $\flat$ (VIII), E $\flat$ /B $\flat$ (VIII).

MINOR TRIADS

Close Position

● Root Position

Diagrammatic representations of minor triads in root position:

- C- (V)
- F- (V)
- B $\flat$ - (VI)
- E $\flat$ - (VI)

● First Inversion

Diagrammatic representations of minor triads in first inversion:

- G- (V)
- C- (V)
- F- (V)
- B $\flat$ - (VI)

● Second Inversion

Diagrammatic representations of minor triads in second inversion:

- F- (VI)
- B $\flat$ - (VI)
- E $\flat$ - (VII)
- A $\flat$ - (VII)

▲ Turnaround Exercise I-IV-V-I

Diagrammatic representations of the turnaround exercise:

C- F- G- C- F- B $\flat$ - C- F- B $\flat$ - E $\flat$ - F- B $\flat$ - E $\flat$ - A $\flat$ - B $\flat$ - E $\flat$ -

Wide Form Inversions

● Root Positions & Inversions

C- C-/E $\flat$ C-/G

The diagram shows the C major triad in root position (C-), first inversion (C-/E $\flat$), and second inversion (C-/G) on a grand staff. Below, three rows of fretboard diagrams illustrate the fingerings for each inversion, with arrows indicating the movement of fingers between positions. The first row shows the root position (VIII) moving to first inversion (X) and then to second inversion (I). The second row shows the first inversion (III) moving to root position (V) and then to second inversion (VIII). The third row shows the second inversion (X) moving to root position (I) and then to first inversion (IV).

▲ Turnaround Exercises

1 C- F-/C G-/B $\flat$ C- F- B $\flat$ -/F C-/E $\flat$ F- B $\flat$ - E $\flat$ -/B $\flat$ F-/A $\flat$ B $\flat$ -

Exercise 1 consists of 12 triads: C- (V), F-/C (VI), G-/B $\flat$ (V), C- (V), F- (V), B $\flat$ -/F (VI), C-/E $\flat$ (V), F- (V), B $\flat$ - (VI), E $\flat$ -/B $\flat$ (VII), F-/A $\flat$ (VI), and B $\flat$ - (VI). The musical notation shows these triads in a sequence on a grand staff.

2 G-/B $\flat$ C- D-/A G-/B $\flat$ C-/E $\flat$ F- G-/D C-/E $\flat$ F-/A $\flat$ B $\flat$ - C-/G F-/A $\flat$

Exercise 2 consists of 12 triads: G-/B $\flat$ (V), C- (V), D-/A (III), G-/B $\flat$ (V), C-/E $\flat$ (V), F- (V), G-/D (III), C-/E $\flat$ (V), F-/A $\flat$ (VI), B $\flat$ - (VI), C-/G (IV), and F-/A $\flat$ (VI). The musical notation shows these triads in a sequence on a grand staff.

3 F-/C B $\flat$ -/D $\flat$ C- F-/C B $\flat$ -/F E $\flat$ -/G $\flat$ F- B $\flat$ -/F E $\flat$ -/B $\flat$ A $\flat$ -/C $\flat$ B $\flat$ - E $\flat$ -/B $\flat$

Exercise 3 consists of 12 triads: F-/C (VI), B $\flat$ -/D $\flat$ (VIII), C- (V), F-/C (VII), B $\flat$ -/F (VI), E $\flat$ -/G $\flat$ (VIII), F- (V), B $\flat$ -/F (VI), E $\flat$ -/B $\flat$ (VII), A $\flat$ -/C $\flat$ (IX), B $\flat$ - (VI), and E $\flat$ -/B $\flat$ (VII). The musical notation shows these triads in a sequence on a grand staff.

No study of triads would be complete without looking at altered forms: major augmented (#5), major $\flat 5$, diminished and minor #5. By now, we should be getting familiar with triads, so that we can convert the shapes to get other sounds. Let's start with major augmented (#5).

MAJOR AUGMENTED TRIADS (#5)

An augmented triad is made up of two major third intervals. The chromatic scale contains three major third intervals. Therefore, the inversions of the augmented triad are always "mirror images" of each other. However, the guitar fingerboard does offer us a number of fingerings.

● Close Position

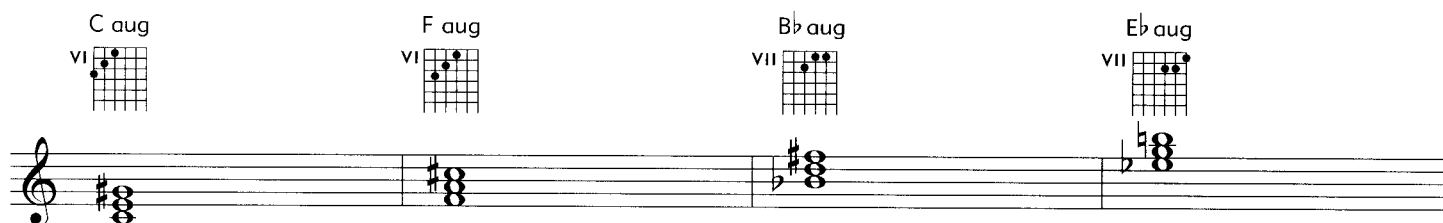


Diagram showing four close position major augmented triads on guitar fingerboards, each with its corresponding musical notation below it:

- C aug** (VI): Fret 6, strings 1-2-3 (F, A, C).
- F aug** (VI): Fret 1, strings 1-2-3 (F, A, C).
- B $\flat$ aug** (VII): Fret 7, strings 1-2-3 (B $\flat$, D $\flat$, F).
- E $\flat$ aug** (VII): Fret 9, strings 1-2-3 (E $\flat$, G $\flat$, B $\flat$).

● First & Second Inversion

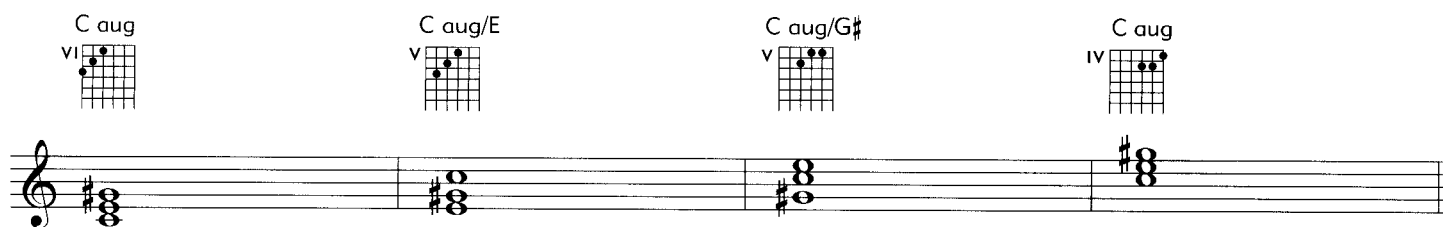


Diagram showing four first and second inversion major augmented triads on guitar fingerboards, each with its corresponding musical notation below it:

- C aug** (VI): Fret 6, strings 1-2-3 (F, A, C).
- C aug/E** (V): Fret 4, strings 1-2-3 (C, E, G).
- C aug/G $\sharp$** (V): Fret 3, strings 1-2-3 (C, E, G).
- C aug** (IV): Fret 2, strings 1-2-3 (C, E, G).

● Wide Form Inversions

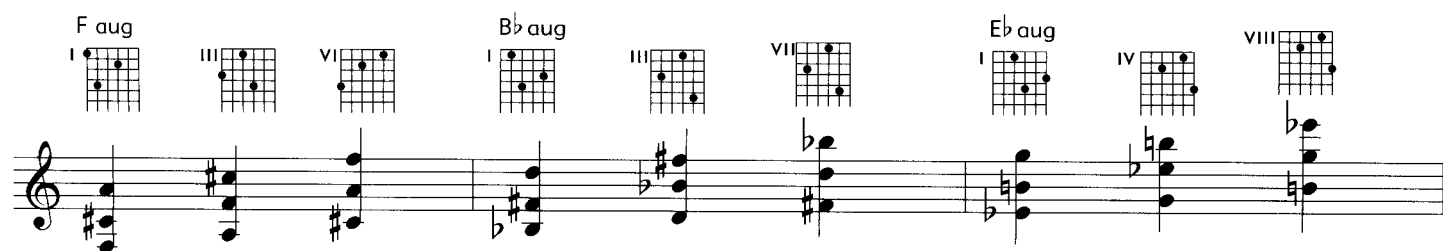


Diagram showing wide form inversions of major augmented triads on guitar fingerboards, each with its corresponding musical notation below it:

- F aug** (I): Fret 1, strings 1-2-3 (F, A, C).
- F aug** (III): Fret 3, strings 1-2-3 (F, A, C).
- F aug** (VI): Fret 6, strings 1-2-3 (F, A, C).
- B $\flat$ aug** (I): Fret 7, strings 1-2-3 (B $\flat$, D $\flat$, F).
- B $\flat$ aug** (III): Fret 9, strings 1-2-3 (B $\flat$, D $\flat$, F).
- B $\flat$ aug** (VII): Fret 12, strings 1-2-3 (B $\flat$, D $\flat$, F).
- E $\flat$ aug** (I): Fret 9, strings 1-2-3 (E $\flat$, G $\flat$, B $\flat$).
- E $\flat$ aug** (IV): Fret 11, strings 1-2-3 (E $\flat$, G $\flat$, B $\flat$).
- E $\flat$ aug** (VIII): Fret 13, strings 1-2-3 (E $\flat$, G $\flat$, B $\flat$).

▲ Connecting Exercise

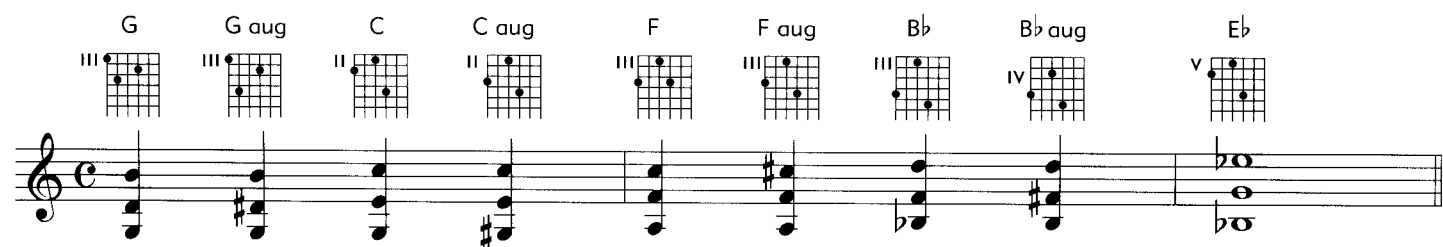


Diagram showing a sequence of nine triads on guitar fingerboards, each with its corresponding musical notation below it:

- G** (III): Fret 3, strings 1-2-3 (G, B, D).
- G aug** (III): Fret 3, strings 1-2-3 (G, B, D).
- C** (II): Fret 2, strings 1-2-3 (C, E, G).
- C aug** (II): Fret 2, strings 1-2-3 (C, E, G).
- F** (III): Fret 1, strings 1-2-3 (F, A, C).
- F aug** (III): Fret 1, strings 1-2-3 (F, A, C).
- B $\flat$** (III): Fret 7, strings 1-2-3 (B $\flat$, D $\flat$, F).
- B $\flat$ aug** (IV): Fret 9, strings 1-2-3 (B $\flat$, D $\flat$, F).
- E $\flat$** (V): Fret 11, strings 1-2-3 (E $\flat$, G $\flat$, B $\flat$).

Transpose this exercise to other string groups, too!

MAJOR #11 TRIADS (b5)

● Close Position

Four guitar fretboard diagrams and a musical staff showing the close position of Major #11 triads (b5) in the key of D major.

Diagrams: C (#11) IV, F (#11) IV, Bb (#11) V, Eb (#11) V.

Musical staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff shows the notes of the four triads in close position: C4-F#4-Bb4, F4-Bb4-Eb4, Bb4-Eb4-Gb4, and Eb4-Gb4-Bb4.

● First Inversion

Four guitar fretboard diagrams and a musical staff showing the first inversion of Major #11 triads (b5) in the key of D major.

Diagrams: G (#11) IV, C (#11) IV, F (#11) IV, Bb (#11) V.

Musical staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff shows the notes of the four triads in first inversion: G4-Bb4-C#4, C#4-Eb4-F#4, F#4-Ab4-Bb4, and Ab4-Bb4-Gb4.

● Second Inversion

Four guitar fretboard diagrams and a musical staff showing the second inversion of Major #11 triads (b5) in the key of D major.

Diagrams: F (#11) VII, Bb (#11) VII, Eb (#11) VII, Ab (#11) VII.

Musical staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff shows the notes of the four triads in second inversion: F4-Ab4-Bb4, Bb4-Gb4-Ab4, Eb4-Gb4-Ab4, and Ab4-Bb4-Gb4.

● Wide Form Inversions

Three sets of guitar fretboard diagrams and a musical staff showing wide form inversions of Major #11 triads (b5) in the key of D major.

Diagrams: F (#11) I, III, VII; Bb (#11) I, III, VII; Eb (#11) I, III, VII.

Musical staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff shows the notes of the triads in wide form: F4-Ab4-Bb4, Bb4-Gb4-Ab4, and Eb4-Gb4-Ab4.

▲ Connecting Exercise

Three sets of guitar fretboard diagrams and a musical staff showing a connecting exercise for Major #11 triads (b5) in the key of D major.

Diagrams: G (#11) III, V, IX; C (#11) III, V, IX; F (#11) III, V, IX.

Musical staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff shows the notes of the triads in connecting exercise: G4-Bb4-C#4, C#4-Eb4-F#4, F#4-Ab4-Bb4, Ab4-Bb4-Gb4, Bb4-Gb4-Ab4, and Eb4-Gb4-Ab4.

DIMINISHED TRIADS

A diminished triad is made up of two minor third intervals. The chromatic scale contains four minor third intervals. This symmetry will be of great use to us later when we look at diminished seventh chords. Here are some shapes:

● Close Position

Diagram showing four diminished triads in close position on a piano keyboard and their corresponding musical notation on a staff. The triads are B^o, E^o, A^o, and D^o. Each triad is represented by a 5-finger grid diagram with finger numbers (I, II, III, IV, V) and a musical staff showing the notes in treble and bass clefs.

● First Inversion

Diagram showing four diminished triads in first inversion on a piano keyboard and their corresponding musical notation on a staff. The triads are B^o, E^o, A^o, and D^o. Each triad is represented by a 5-finger grid diagram with finger numbers (I, II, III, IV, V) and a musical staff showing the notes in treble and bass clefs.

● Second Inversion

Diagram showing four diminished triads in second inversion on a piano keyboard and their corresponding musical notation on a staff. The triads are B^o, E^o, A^o, and D^o. Each triad is represented by a 5-finger grid diagram with finger numbers (I, II, III, IV, V) and a musical staff showing the notes in treble and bass clefs.

● Wide Form Inversion

Diagram showing four diminished triads in wide form inversion on a piano keyboard and their corresponding musical notation on a staff. The triads are F^o, B^b^o, E^b^o, and VII. Each triad is represented by a 5-finger grid diagram with finger numbers (I, II, III, IV, V) and a musical staff showing the notes in treble and bass clefs.

▲ Connecting Exercise

The connecting exercise consists of two staves of music. The first staff contains 11 measures, each with a guitar fretboard diagram above it. The diagrams are labeled with Roman numerals and chord symbols: II (F#°), III (G-), IV (F#°), V (G-), VII (F#°), VIII (G-), II (B°), III (C-), IV (B°), V (C-), and VII (B°). The second staff contains 7 measures with fretboard diagrams labeled VII (C-), II (E°), III (F-), V (E°), VI (F-), VIII (E°), and IX (F-). The musical notation shows the triads played in sequence on a single string, with some measures including a double bar line.

TRIADS WITH ADDED NINTH

Another common sound associated with triads is the “added ninth,” used in country music, but also in pop, fusion, and contemporary jazz. Here, we can add the ninth to the triad shapes we have just seen.

Major Add 9 Voicings

● Root Position

This section shows three root position major add 9 voicings. Each has a guitar fretboard diagram and a musical notation example. The first is Cadd9 (V), the second is Fadd9 (V), and the third is Bbadd9 (VI). The musical notation shows the triad with the added ninth on a single string.

● 1-5-9-3 Voicing

This section shows three 1-5-9-3 voicings for major add 9 chords. Each has two guitar fretboard diagrams (labeled V and II) and a musical notation example. The first is Aadd9, the second is Dadd9, and the third is Gadd9. The musical notation shows the 1-5-9-3 voicing on a single string.

● 3-1-9-5 Voicing

F add9/A (= A-7^b13)

 B^b add9/D (= D-7^b13)

 E^b add9/G (= G-7^b13)

● 5-9-3-1 Voicing

F add9/C (= C6sus)

 B^b add9/F (= F6sus)

 E^b add9/B^b (= B^b6sus)

● Other Forms

G add9 (= A9sus)

 C add9 (= E-7^b13)

 F add9 (= A-7^b13)

 C add9 (stretch!) x

● 9-3-5 Forms (no root)

C add9

 F add9

 B^b add9

 E^b add9

 Minor Add 9 Voicings

● Root Position

C- add9

 F- add9

 B^b- add9

● 1-5-9-3 Voicings

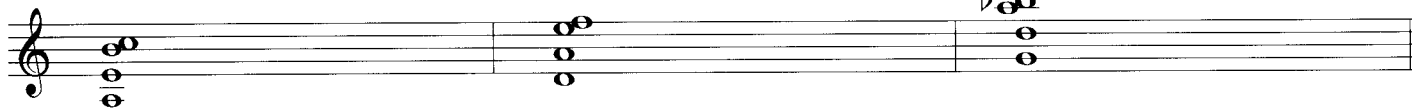
A- add9



D- add9



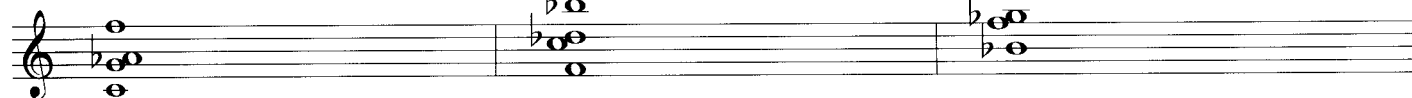
G- add9



● 3-1-9-5 Voicings

F- add9/A $\flat$ (= A $\flat$ Δ ¹³)B $\flat$ - add9/D (= D $\flat$ Δ ¹³)E $\flat$ - add9/G (= G $\flat$ Δ ¹³)

● 5-9-3-1 Voicings

F- add9/C (= C $\sharp$ sus $\flat$ ¹³)B $\flat$ - add9/F (= F $\sharp$ sus $\flat$ ¹³)E $\flat$ - add9/B $\flat$ (= B $\flat$ sus $\flat$ ¹³)

● Other Forms

G- add9

C- add9 (= E $\flat$ Δ ¹³)F- add9 (= A $\flat$ Δ ¹³)

● 9-3-5 Forms (no root)

C- add9



F- add9

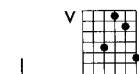
B $\flat$ - add9E $\flat$ - add9

● 1-9-5-3 Forms (Bill Frisell!)

C- add9



F- add9

B $\flat$ - add9

OTHER ADD 9 VOICINGS

● Add 9 #11 Voicings (1-5-9-#11) • Lydian or Mixolydian #11

Gadd9#11 Cadd9#11 or V Fadd9#11 V

● Add 9 Suspended Voicings (1-5-9-11/sus4)

Gadd9¹¹ Cadd9¹¹ or V Fadd9¹¹ V

● Triad Sus 9 Voicings (Root Position) • No 3rd

Csus 9 Fsus 9 Bbsus 9 Ebsus 9

● Triad Sus 9 Voicings (1-5-8-9) • No 3rd

Gsus 9 Csus 9 Fsus 9

MINOR #5 TRIADS

We can think of a “minor #5 triad” as an inversion of a major triad a third lower (example 1). This means, of course, that we don’t have to learn a whole new set of fingerings, just reinterpret existing ones. This sort of “overlapping” is one of the wonders of chordal harmony, as we can see in example 2.

1 2

E-^{b6} C E- → CΔ F → D-7

APPLICATION OF TRIADS

GEORGIA

Music: Hoagy Carmichael

Text: Stuart Gorrell

(arr. Peter O'Mara)

Try reducing the chords of a tune to triads, as in the following example "Georgia." These aren't necessarily the most advanced harmonic substitutions but this sort of exercise helps us to get the various triad shapes into our "everyday" repertoire. Triads can also create a purity, through their simplicity, which can be an advantage when playing without bass and drums – great for introductions or duo accompaniment!

The musical score for "Georgia" is presented in four systems, each showing a melody line and a corresponding triad reduction in the bass. The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is common time (C).

System 1 (Measures 1-4):

- Measure 1: FΔ (treble), F (bass)
- Measure 2: E∅ (treble), F/A (bass)
- Measure 3: A7 (treble), G-/Bb (bass)
- Measure 4: D-7 (treble), A/C# (bass)

System 2 (Measures 5-8):

- Measure 5: D-7/C (treble), D- (bass)
- Measure 6: B∅ (treble), F/C (bass)
- Measure 7: Bb-7 (treble), B° (bass)
- Measure 8: Bb-/Db (bass)

System 3 (Measures 9-12):

- Measure 9: A-7 (treble), A-7/C (bass)
- Measure 10: Ab° (treble), B° (bass)
- Measure 11: G-7 (treble), D° (bass)
- Measure 12: C7 (treble), Bb/D (bass)

System 4 (Measures 13-16):

- Measure 13: C7 (treble), C/E (bass)
- Measure 14: FΔ (treble), F° (bass)
- Measure 15: D7 (treble), Bb/F (bass)
- Measure 16: G-7 (treble), E° (bass)

Measures 17-20 (implied continuation of the system):

- Measure 17: FΔ (treble), F (bass)
- Measure 18: Bb7 (treble), Bb/D (bass)
- Measure 19: FΔ (treble), D° (bass)
- Measure 20: F/C (bass)

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STAIRWAY

Peter O'Mara

(as played by Peter O'Mara on "Stairway,"
ENJA CD 7077-2)

The versatility of triads will become apparent as we move on to more complicated harmony. The next tune, "Stairway," features a lot of "added 9th" triads. The minor 7#5 chords are just inversions of major "added 9th" triads with the third in the bass. In the "A" section the chords progress through all seven steps in the B major scale.

A

E add 9 F# add 9 E add 9/G# F# add 9/A# B add 9 C#-11(no 3)

I II IV# VI VII I

D#-7(#5) E add 9 F# add 9 E add 9/G# F# add 9/A# B add 9

II I VI VI VII

E add 9 F# add 9 E add 9/G# F# add 9/A# B add 9 C#-11(no 3)

I II IV# VI VII I

D#-7(#5) E add 9 F# add 9 E add 9/G# F# add 9/A# B sus

II I VI VI IV

B

15

III

C-7 $\flat$ 13

F-7 $\flat$ 13

B $\flat$ -9

A-9 B-7 $\flat$ 13

II

I

III

19

IV

C $\sharp$ o

F $\sharp$ 7sus $\flat$ 9

B add9

E-6/B

II

IV

V

23

III

C-7 $\flat$ 13

F-7 $\flat$ 13

G $\flat$ add9

B add9

II

I

27

III

E add9

F $\sharp$ / E

E add9

E add9

F $\sharp$ / E

E add9

I

III

I

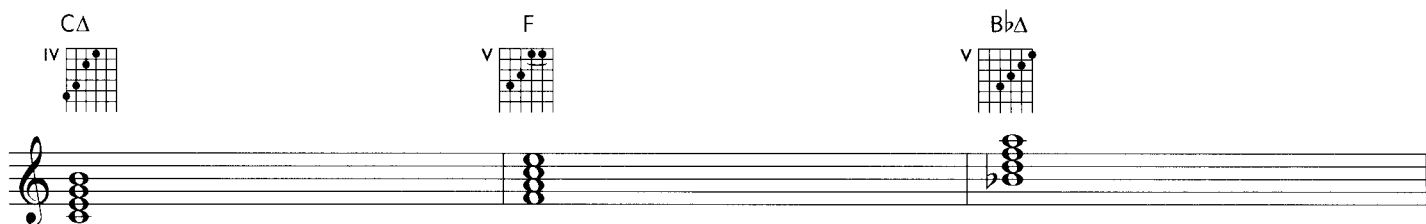
Chapter 2

SEVENTH CHORDS

Our first “jazz chord” fingering was probably the major 7th (Δ). Let’s take a new look at its possibilities on the guitar fingerboard:

● Root Position

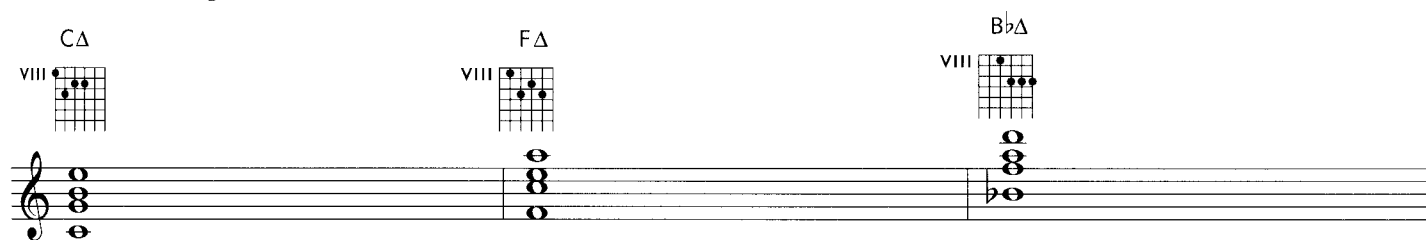
Diagram illustrating Root Position for C Δ , F Δ , and B $\flat\Delta$ chords. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram and its corresponding musical notation on a staff.



The diagram shows three fretboard diagrams for Root Position: C Δ (IV), F Δ (V), and B $\flat\Delta$ (V). Below each diagram is a musical staff showing the chord voicing. The C Δ chord is on the 4th fret, F Δ is on the 5th fret, and B $\flat\Delta$ is on the 7th fret.

● 1-5-7-3 Voicing

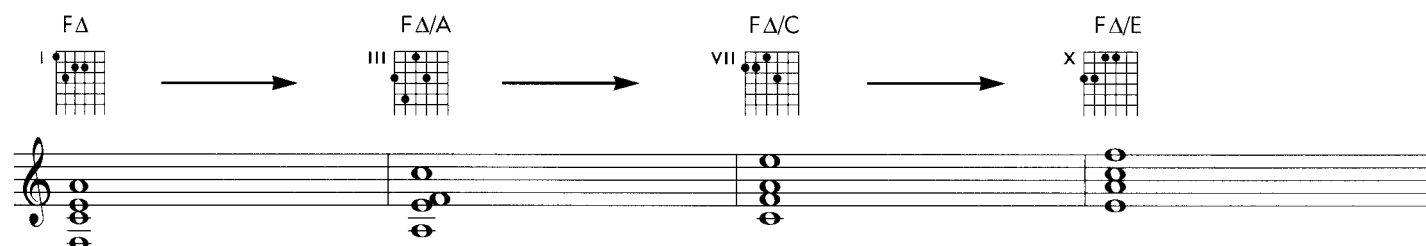
Diagram illustrating 1-5-7-3 Voicing for C Δ , F Δ , and B $\flat\Delta$ chords. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram and its corresponding musical notation on a staff.



The diagram shows three fretboard diagrams for 1-5-7-3 Voicing: C Δ (VIII), F Δ (VIII), and B $\flat\Delta$ (VIII). Below each diagram is a musical staff showing the chord voicing. The C Δ chord is on the 8th fret, F Δ is on the 8th fret, and B $\flat\Delta$ is on the 8th fret.

● Lower 4-String Group Inversions

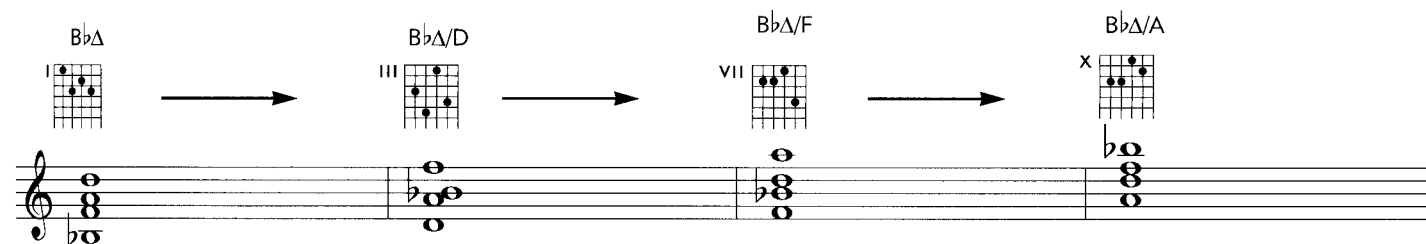
Diagram illustrating Lower 4-String Group Inversions for F Δ , F Δ /A, F Δ /C, and F Δ /E. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram and its corresponding musical notation on a staff.



The diagram shows four fretboard diagrams for Lower 4-String Group Inversions: F Δ (I), F Δ /A (III), F Δ /C (VII), and F Δ /E (X). Below each diagram is a musical staff showing the chord voicing. The F Δ chord is on the 1st fret, F Δ /A is on the 3rd fret, F Δ /C is on the 7th fret, and F Δ /E is on the 10th fret.

● Middle 4-String Group Inversions

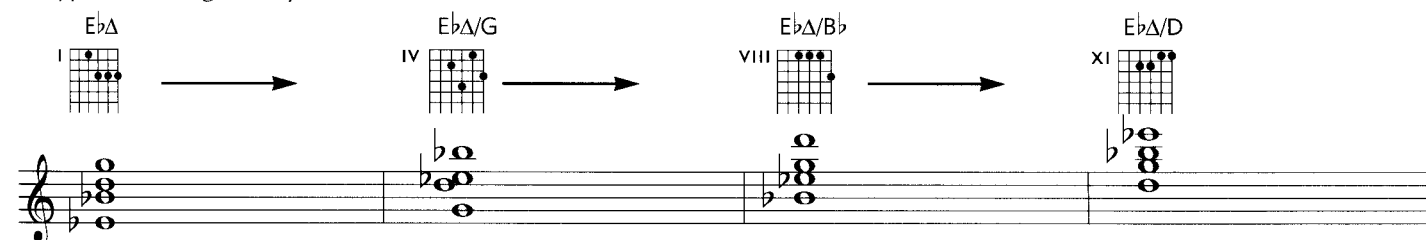
Diagram illustrating Middle 4-String Group Inversions for B $\flat\Delta$, B $\flat\Delta$ /D, B $\flat\Delta$ /F, and B $\flat\Delta$ /A. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram and its corresponding musical notation on a staff.



The diagram shows four fretboard diagrams for Middle 4-String Group Inversions: B $\flat\Delta$ (I), B $\flat\Delta$ /D (III), B $\flat\Delta$ /F (VII), and B $\flat\Delta$ /A (X). Below each diagram is a musical staff showing the chord voicing. The B $\flat\Delta$ chord is on the 1st fret, B $\flat\Delta$ /D is on the 3rd fret, B $\flat\Delta$ /F is on the 7th fret, and B $\flat\Delta$ /A is on the 10th fret.

● Upper 4-String Group Inversions

Diagram illustrating Upper 4-String Group Inversions for E $\flat\Delta$, E $\flat\Delta$ /G, E $\flat\Delta$ /B $\flat$, and E $\flat\Delta$ /D. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram and its corresponding musical notation on a staff.



The diagram shows four fretboard diagrams for Upper 4-String Group Inversions: E $\flat\Delta$ (I), E $\flat\Delta$ /G (IV), E $\flat\Delta$ /B $\flat$ (VIII), and E $\flat\Delta$ /D (XI). Below each diagram is a musical staff showing the chord voicing. The E $\flat\Delta$ chord is on the 1st fret, E $\flat\Delta$ /G is on the 4th fret, E $\flat\Delta$ /B $\flat$ is on the 8th fret, and E $\flat\Delta$ /D is on the 11th fret.

MAJOR 7TH VOICING EXERCISES

▲ 2-Chord Connections

CΔ FΔ/C CΔ/E FΔ CΔ/G FΔ/A CΔ/B FΔ/C

DΔ/A GΔ/B DΔ/C# GΔ/D DΔ GΔ/F# DΔ/F# GΔ

▲ Random Connections

CΔ A^bΔ/C EΔ/B AΔ/C# DΔ B^bΔ/F GΔ/F# E^bΔ/G

D^bΔ/A^b AΔ FΔ/A DΔ/C# BΔ GΔ/B E^bΔ/B^b

▲ Major 7th Inversions Counterpoint

GΔ E^bΔ/G CΔ/G A^bΔ/G DΔ B^bΔ/D

GΔ/D E^bΔ/D AΔ FΔ/A DΔ/A B^bΔ/A

MAJOR 7^{#11} SHAPES & INVERSIONS

A common extension to the major 7th chord is the ^{#11}, from the Lydian mode (sometimes written as “major 7^{b5}”):

● Root Position

Diagram showing three root position Major 7^{#11} chords on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

- CΔ^{#11}** (IV): Fretboard diagram shows notes C, E, G, B, F[#] on strings 1-5. Musical notation shows C4, E4, G4, B4, F#4.
- FΔ^{#11}** (IV): Fretboard diagram shows notes F, A, C, E, G[#] on strings 1-5. Musical notation shows F4, A4, C5, E5, G#5.
- B^bΔ^{#11}** (V): Fretboard diagram shows notes B, D, F, A, C[#] on strings 1-5. Musical notation shows B3, D4, F4, A4, C#5.

● 1-5-7-3 Voicing

Diagram showing three 1-5-7-3 voicings for Major 7^{#11} chords on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

- CΔ^{#11}** (VIII): Fretboard diagram shows notes C, E, G, B on strings 2-5. Musical notation shows C4, E4, G4, B4.
- FΔ^{#11}** (VIII): Fretboard diagram shows notes F, A, C, E on strings 2-5. Musical notation shows F4, A4, C5, E5.
- B^bΔ^{#11}** (VIII): Fretboard diagram shows notes B, D, F, A on strings 2-5. Musical notation shows B3, D4, F4, A4.

● Lower 4-String Group Inversions

Diagram showing four Lower 4-String Group Inversions for FΔ^{#11} on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

- FΔ^{#11}** (I): Fretboard diagram shows notes F, A, C, E on strings 1-4. Musical notation shows F4, A4, C5, E5.
- FΔ^{#11}/A** (III): Fretboard diagram shows notes F, A, C, E on strings 2-5. Musical notation shows F4, A4, C5, E5.
- FΔ^{#11}/B** (VII): Fretboard diagram shows notes F, A, C, E on strings 3-6. Musical notation shows F4, A4, C5, E5.
- FΔ^{#11}/E** (IX): Fretboard diagram shows notes F, A, C, E on strings 4-7. Musical notation shows F4, A4, C5, E5.

● Middle 4-String Group Inversions

Diagram showing four Middle 4-String Group Inversions for B^bΔ^{#11} on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

- B^bΔ^{#11}** (I): Fretboard diagram shows notes B, D, F, A on strings 1-4. Musical notation shows B3, D4, F4, A4.
- B^bΔ^{#11}/D** (III): Fretboard diagram shows notes B, D, F, A on strings 2-5. Musical notation shows B3, D4, F4, A4.
- B^bΔ^{#11}/E** (VII): Fretboard diagram shows notes B, D, F, A on strings 3-6. Musical notation shows B3, D4, F4, A4.
- B^bΔ^{#11}/A** (IX): Fretboard diagram shows notes B, D, F, A on strings 4-7. Musical notation shows B3, D4, F4, A4.

● Upper 4-String Group Inversions

Diagram showing four Upper 4-String Group Inversions for E^bΔ^{#11} on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

- E^bΔ^{#11}** (I): Fretboard diagram shows notes E, G, B, D on strings 1-4. Musical notation shows E3, G3, B3, D4.
- E^bΔ^{#11}/G** (IV): Fretboard diagram shows notes E, G, B, D on strings 2-5. Musical notation shows E3, G3, B3, D4.
- E^bΔ^{#11}/A** (VII): Fretboard diagram shows notes E, G, B, D on strings 3-6. Musical notation shows E3, G3, B3, D4.
- E^bΔ^{#11}/D** (X): Fretboard diagram shows notes E, G, B, D on strings 4-7. Musical notation shows E3, G3, B3, D4.

MAJOR 7^{#5} SHAPES & INVERSIONS

Yet another possibility is the major 7^{#5}, the third step of both the melodic and harmonic minor scales. It is also the first step of the harmonic major scale (♭13).

● Root Position

IV C Δ ^{#5} V F Δ ^{#5} v B $\flat$ Δ ^{#5}

● 1-5-7-3 Voicing

VIII C Δ ^{#5} VIII F Δ ^{#5} VIII B $\flat$ Δ ^{#5}

● Lower 4-String Group Inversions

I F Δ ^{#5} III F Δ ^{#5}/A VIII F Δ ^{#5}/C $\sharp$ x F Δ ^{#5}/E

● Middle 4-String Group Inversions

I B $\flat$ Δ ^{#5} III B $\flat$ Δ ^{#5}/D VIII B $\flat$ Δ ^{#5}/F $\sharp$ XI B $\flat$ Δ ^{#5}/A

● Upper 4-String Group Inversions

I E $\flat$ Δ ^{#5} IV E $\flat$ Δ ^{#5}/G VIII E $\flat$ Δ ^{#5}/B XI E $\flat$ Δ ^{#5}/D

We can see that by raising or lowering the fifth in these chord shapes, the whole texture of them can be changed. The following exercise should encourage us to think about the function of the fifth, rather than just memorizing the chord shapes alone.

MAJOR 7 CONVERSION EXERCISES

● Lower 4-String Group

Diagrammatic representations of guitar chord shapes for the Lower 4-String Group, showing GΔ, GΔ^{#5}, and GΔ^{#11} in various positions (III, V, IX, XII).

● Middle 4-String Group

Diagrammatic representations of guitar chord shapes for the Middle 4-String Group, showing CΔ, CΔ^{#5}, and CΔ^{#11} in various positions (III, V, IX, XII).

● *Upper 4-String Group*

The diagram illustrates two rows of guitar fretboard shapes for the Upper 4-String Group. The first row shows shapes for FΔ, FΔ#5, FΔ#11, FΔ, FΔ, FΔ#5, FΔ#11, and FΔ. The second row shows shapes for FΔ, FΔ#5, FΔ#11, FΔ, FΔ, FΔ#5, FΔ#11, and FΔ. Each shape is accompanied by a musical staff showing the corresponding chord voicing.

DIMINISHED 7th CHORDS

Here is a layout of diminished 7th shapes:

● *Diminished 7th Chords*

The diagram shows three guitar fretboard shapes for diminished 7th chords: G°, C°, and F°. Each shape is accompanied by a musical staff showing the corresponding chord voicing.

● *Wide Form Inversions*

The diagram shows four guitar fretboard shapes for wide form inversions of diminished 7th chords: G°, G°, C°, and C°. Each shape is accompanied by a musical staff showing the corresponding chord voicing. An arrow points to the second G° shape with the text "(pretty impractical!)"

Because of the symmetry of the diminished 7th chord, the voicings (and fingerings) within a given string group are identical. This saves us a lot of work memorizing chord shapes.

DOMINANT 7TH SHAPES & INVERSIONS

Here is a layout of dominant 7th shapes:

● Root Position

C7 F7 B $\flat$ 7

C7 F7 B $\flat$ 7

● Lower 4-String Group Inversions

F7 F7/A F7/C F7/E $\flat$

● Middle 4-String Group Inversions

B $\flat$ 7 B $\flat$ 7/D B $\flat$ 7/F B $\flat$ 7/A $\flat$

● Upper 4-String Group Inversions

E $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ 7/G E $\flat$ 7/B $\flat$ E $\flat$ 7/D $\flat$

MINOR 7TH SHAPES & INVERSIONS

Here is a layout of minor 7th shapes:

● Root Position

III C-7 IV F-7 IV B $\flat$ -7

● 1-7-5-3 Voicing

VIII C-7 VIII F-7 VIII B $\flat$ -7

● Lower 4-String Group Inversions

I F-7 III F-7/A $\flat$ VI F-7/C X F-7/E $\flat$

● Middle 4-String Group Inversions

I B $\flat$ -7 III B $\flat$ -7/D $\flat$ VI B $\flat$ -7/F X B $\flat$ -7/A $\flat$

● Upper 4-String Group Inversions

I E $\flat$ -7 IV E $\flat$ -7/G $\flat$ VII E $\flat$ -7/B $\flat$ XI E $\flat$ -7/D $\flat$

MINOR 7TH $\flat$ 5 SHAPES & INVERSIONS

Here is a layout of minor 7th $\flat$ 5 shapes:

● Root Position

III $C\emptyset$ (probably unplayable with root!) IV $F\emptyset$ IV $B\flat\emptyset$

● 1-7-5-3 Voicing

VIII $C\emptyset$ VIII $F\emptyset$ VIII $B\flat\emptyset$

● Lower 4-String Group Inversions

I $F\emptyset$ III $F\emptyset/A\flat$ VI $F\emptyset/C\flat$ IX $F\emptyset/E\flat$

● Middle 4-String Group Inversions

I $B\flat\emptyset$ III $B\flat\emptyset/D\flat$ VI $B\flat\emptyset/F\flat$ IX $B\flat\emptyset/A\flat$

● Upper 4-String Group Inversions

I $E\flat\emptyset$ IV $E\flat\emptyset/G\flat$ VII $E\flat\emptyset/B\flat$ X $E\flat\emptyset/D\flat$

MINOR MAJOR 7TH SHAPES & INVERSIONS

Here is a layout of minor chord shapes with a major 7th:

● Root Position

Diagram showing three root position minor chord shapes with a major 7th (C-Δ, F-Δ, B $\flat$ -Δ) on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

● 1-7-5-3 Voicing

Diagram showing three 1-7-5-3 voicing minor chord shapes with a major 7th (C-Δ, F-Δ, B $\flat$ -Δ) on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

● Lower 4-String Group Inversions

Diagram showing four lower 4-string group inversion shapes for F-Δ (I, III, VI, X) on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

● Middle 4-String Group Inversions

Diagram showing four middle 4-string group inversion shapes for B $\flat$ -Δ (I, III, VI, X) on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

● Upper 4-String Group Inversions

Diagram showing four upper 4-string group inversion shapes for E $\flat$ -Δ (I, IV, VII, XI) on guitar fretboards and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

MINOR 7[#]5 SHAPES

Minor 7[#]5 shapes can also be thought of as inversions of a “major add 9” on the [#]5th. For example:

A-7[#]5 = Fadd9

Here are some frequently-used shapes:

Diagram illustrating frequently-used shapes for Minor 7[#]5 chords, showing guitar fretboard diagrams and corresponding musical notation.

Top Row:

- A-7[#]5:** Guitar fretboard diagram (V shape, 5th fret) and musical notation (treble clef, notes A2, C3, E3, G3, A#3).
- D-7[#]5:** Guitar fretboard diagram (V shape, 5th fret) and musical notation (treble clef, notes D2, F3, A3, C4, D#3).
- G-7[#]5:** Guitar fretboard diagram (V shape, 5th fret) and musical notation (treble clef, notes G2, Bb3, D4, F4, G#3).

Bottom Row:

- E-7[#]5:** Guitar fretboard diagram (III shape, 3rd fret) and musical notation (treble clef, notes E2, G3, B3, D4, E#3).
- A-7[#]5:** Guitar fretboard diagram (III shape, 3rd fret) and musical notation (treble clef, notes A2, C3, E3, G3, A#3).
- A-7[#]5:** Guitar fretboard diagram (V shape, 5th fret) and musical notation (treble clef, notes A2, C3, E3, G3, A#3).
- D-7[#]5:** Guitar fretboard diagram (V shape, 5th fret) and musical notation (treble clef, notes D2, F3, A3, C4, D#3).

ROOT POSITION EXERCISES

Here are some exercises using the chord shapes we have just seen:

▲ Major 7 Colours

Diagrammatic chord shapes for Major 7 Colours:

- F Δ (V)
- F Δ ^{#5} (V)
- F Δ ¹³ (V)
- F Δ ^{#11} (IV)
- B $\flat\Delta$ (V)
- B $\flat\Delta$ ^{#5} (V)
- B $\flat\Delta$ ¹³ (V)
- B $\flat\Delta$ ^{#11} (V)

Musical notation showing the root position chords for Major 7 Colours in treble and bass clefs.

▲ Minor Colours

Diagrammatic chord shapes for Minor Colours:

- G $-\Delta$ (VII)
- G -7 (VI)
- G -6 (V)
- G $\emptyset$ (VI)
- C $-\Delta$ (VII)
- C -7 (VI)
- C -6 (V)
- C $\emptyset$ (VI)

Musical notation showing the root position chords for Minor Colours in treble and bass clefs.

▲ Dominant 7 Colours

Diagrammatic chord shapes for Dominant 7 Colours:

- G7 (VI)
- G7^{#5} (VI)
- G13 (VI)
- G7^{b5} (VI)
- C7 (VI)
- C7^{#5} (VI)
- C13 (VI)
- C7^{b5} (VI)

Musical notation showing the root position chords for Dominant 7 Colours in treble and bass clefs.

▲ Scale Step Skipping

Diagrammatic chord shapes for Scale Step Skipping:

- D Δ (II)
- D Δ ^{#5} (II)
- E -7 (III)
- E $-\Delta$ (IV)
- F $\sharp-7$ (V)
- F $\sharp-\Delta$ (VI)
- G Δ (VII)
- G Δ ^{#11} (VI)

Musical notation showing the root position chords for Scale Step Skipping in treble and bass clefs (first row).

- G Δ (II)
- G Δ ^{#5} (II)
- A -7 (III)
- A $-\Delta$ (IV)
- B -7 (V)
- B $-\Delta$ (VI)
- C Δ (VII)
- C Δ ^{#11} (VII)

Musical notation showing the root position chords for Scale Step Skipping in treble and bass clefs (second row).

II-V-I VOICING EXERCISES

▲ Lower 4-String Group Inversions

G-7 III C7/G II FΔ I G-7/B $\flat$ V C7/B $\flat$ V FΔ/A III

G-7/D VIII C7 VIII FΔ/C VII G-7/F XII C7/E X FΔ/E X

▲ Middle 4-String Group Inversions

C-7 III F7/C II B $\flat$ Δ I C-7/E $\flat$ V F7/E $\flat$ V B $\flat$ Δ/D III

C-7/G VIII F7 VIII B $\flat$ Δ/F VII C-7/B $\flat$ XII F7/A X B $\flat$ Δ/A X

▲ Upper 4-String Group Inversions

F-7 III B $\flat$ 7/F III E $\flat$ Δ I F-7/A $\flat$ IV B $\flat$ 7/A $\flat$ VI E $\flat$ Δ/G IV

F-7/C IX B $\flat$ 7 IX E $\flat$ Δ/B $\flat$ VIII F-7/E $\flat$ XIII B $\flat$ 7/D XI E $\flat$ Δ/D XI

DROP-THREE VOICINGS

Another voicing commonly used on the guitar is the “drop three”: the third voice in a close four-note voicing (from the top, any inversion) is dropped one octave to produce a full and resonant sound.

● Major 7 Forms

Diagram showing fretboard positions for Major 7 chords (Δ) and their drop-three voicings (Δ/B, Δ/D, Δ/F#) for G and C. The fretboard is shown from the 1st to the 12th fret. The chords are labeled: GΔ, GΔ/B, GΔ/D, GΔ/F#, CΔ, CΔ/E, CΔ/G, and CΔ/B. The fret numbers are indicated by Roman numerals: III, V, VIII, XII, III, V, VIII, and XII.

● Dominant 7 Forms

Diagram showing fretboard positions for Dominant 7 chords (7) and their drop-three voicings (7/B, 7/D, 7/F) for G and C. The fretboard is shown from the 1st to the 12th fret. The chords are labeled: G7, G7/B, G7/D, G7/F, C7, C7/E, C7/G, and C7/B $\flat$. The fret numbers are indicated by Roman numerals: III, V, VIII, XII, III, V, VI, and XII.

● Minor 7 Forms

Diagram showing fretboard positions for Minor 7 chords (-7) and their drop-three voicings (-7/B $\flat$, -7/D, -7/F) for G and C. The fretboard is shown from the 1st to the 12th fret. The chords are labeled: G-7, G-7/B $\flat$, G-7/D, G-7/F, C-7, C-7/E $\flat$, C-7/G, and C-7/B $\flat$. The fret numbers are indicated by Roman numerals: III, V, VIII, XI, III, V, VIII, and XI.

● Minor 7 $\flat$ 5 Forms

Diagram showing fretboard positions for Minor 7 $\flat$ 5 chords (ø) and their drop-three voicings (ø/B $\flat$, ø/D $\flat$, ø/F) for G and C. The fretboard is shown from the 1st to the 12th fret. The chords are labeled: Gø, Gø/B $\flat$, Gø/D $\flat$, Gø/F, Cø, Cø/E $\flat$, Cø/G $\flat$, and Cø/B $\flat$. The fret numbers are indicated by Roman numerals: II, IV, VIII, XI, II, V, VIII, and XI.

▲ Exercise: Major Colours

Diagram showing fretboard positions for Major Colours chords (Δ) and their drop-three voicings (Δ/B, Δ/D, Δ/F) for G and C. The fretboard is shown from the 1st to the 12th fret. The chords are labeled: GΔ, GΔ¹³, GΔ^{#5}, GΔ^{#11}, CΔ, CΔ¹³, CΔ^{#5}, and CΔ^{#11}. The fret numbers are indicated by Roman numerals: III, III, III, II, III, III, III, and II.

"DROP-THREE" COLOURS

▲ Exercise: Dominant 7 Colours

Chord diagrams and musical notation for Dominant 7 Colours:

- G7, G13, G7^{#5}, G7^{#11}, C7, C13, C7^{#5}, C7^{#11}

▲ Exercise: Minor Colours

Chord diagrams and musical notation for Minor Colours:

- G-13, G-7, G-7^{b13}, G-11, C-13, C-7, C-7^{b13}, C-11

▲ Exercise: II-V-I Combinations

Chord diagrams and musical notation for II-V-I Combinations:

Row 1: A-7, D7, GΔ, E7, A-7, D7, GΔ, E7

Row 2: G-7, C7, FΔ, D7, E-7, A7, DΔ, B7

Row 3: D-7, G7, CΔ, A7, D-7, G7, CΔ, A7

Row 4: C-7, F7, B^bΔ, G7, A-7, D7, GΔ, E7

REDUCED 7TH CHORD FORMS

The various extensions (9, 11, 13) used in jazz harmony make it necessary to leave out notes that don't add colour to the chord, for example the fifth:

● 1-3-7 Voicings

Diagram illustrating 1-3-7 Voicings for various chords, showing the fretboard positions and the corresponding musical notation on a staff.

Row 1: G Major and A Minor

- GΔ (Major)
- G7 (Dominant)
- G6 (Major 6th)
- A-Δ (Minor)
- A-7 (Dominant)
- A-6 (Minor 6th)

Row 2: C Major and D Minor

- CΔ (Major)
- C7 (Dominant)
- C6 (Major 6th)
- D-Δ (Minor)
- D-7 (Dominant)
- D-6 (Minor 6th)

Row 3: F Major and G Minor

- FΔ (Major)
- F7 (Dominant)
- F6 (Major 6th)
- G-Δ (Minor)
- G-7 (Dominant)
- G-6 (Minor 6th)

Row 4: Bb Major and C Minor

- BbΔ (Major)
- Bb7 (Dominant)
- Bb6 (Major 6th)
- C-Δ (Minor)
- C-7 (Dominant)
- C-6 (Minor 6th)

▲ Major Scale Exercise

Diagram illustrating a Major Scale Exercise using 1-3-7 voicings for the C major scale. The exercise shows the sequence of chords and their corresponding musical notation on a staff.

Chords: CΔ -6 D-7 -6 E-7 -b6 FΔ -6 G7 -6 A-7 -6 Bø -b6 CΔ -6

Fingering: II, III, V, VII, IX, X, XII, XIV

Transpose this exercise to other keys and fingerings, too!

● 1-7-3 Voicings

G Δ G7 G6 A- Δ A-7 A-6

III III II V V IV

C Δ C7 C6 D- Δ D-7 D-6

III III II V V IV

F Δ F7 F6 G- Δ G-7 G-6

III III III V V V

▲ Major Scale Exercise

G Δ -6 A-7 -6 B-7 - $\flat$ 6 C Δ -6 D7 -6 E-7 -6 F $\sharp$ $\emptyset$ - $\flat$ 6 G Δ -6

III V VII VIII X XII XIV XV

Transpose this exercise to other keys and fingerings as well!

THREE-NOTE COMPING USING "STABLE" NOTES

Let's look at a more modally-oriented concept of reduced 7th chord comping. Perhaps this vamp from Herbie Hancock's "Cantaloupe Island" is familiar:

F7



It uses diatonic thirds with a "stable" upper voice to express the chordal sound of F7 Mixolydian. If we decide on a strong "stable" voice (here the root) we could experiment with this concept further:

CΔ^{#11} (Lydian)

or

or

or

or

There are only a handful of possible combinations, although you can extend them by using other intervals for your basic chord shapes, e.g., the fourth (see chapter 5). The combinations also transfer to other chords within a diatonic scale. For example:

A-7 or D7_{sus}

The “stable” voice can also be underneath:

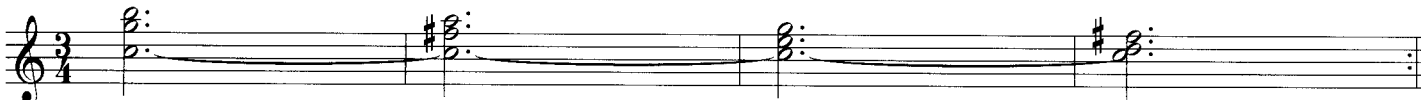
CΔ^{#11} or A-7, or D7sus



or



or

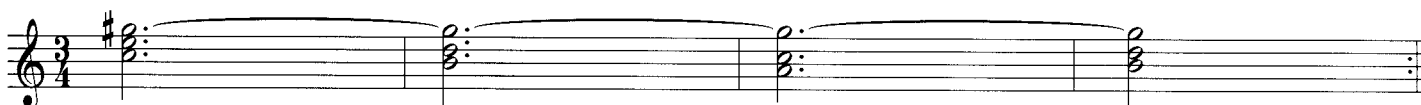


The same concept applied to the melodic minor scale can produce interesting results:

A-Δ or A^b7alt. or D9^{#11}



or



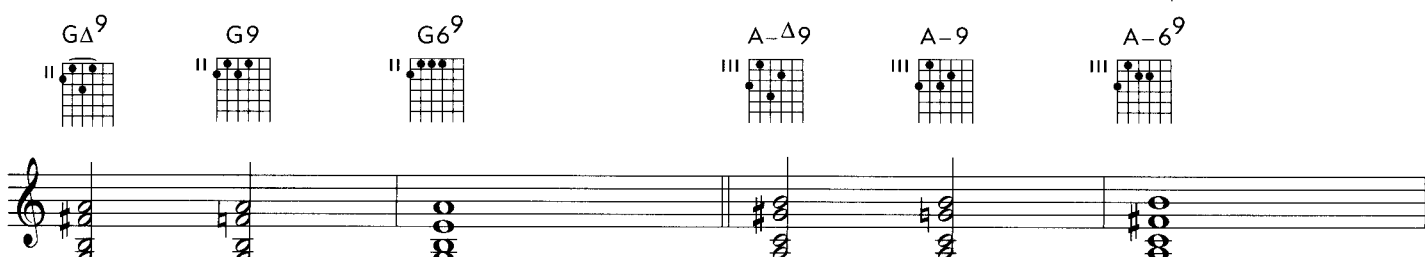
We see here also the emergence of “cluster” voicings which will be discussed in chapter 6. These should be transferred to other string groups.

Chapter 3

EXTENDED 7TH CHORDS

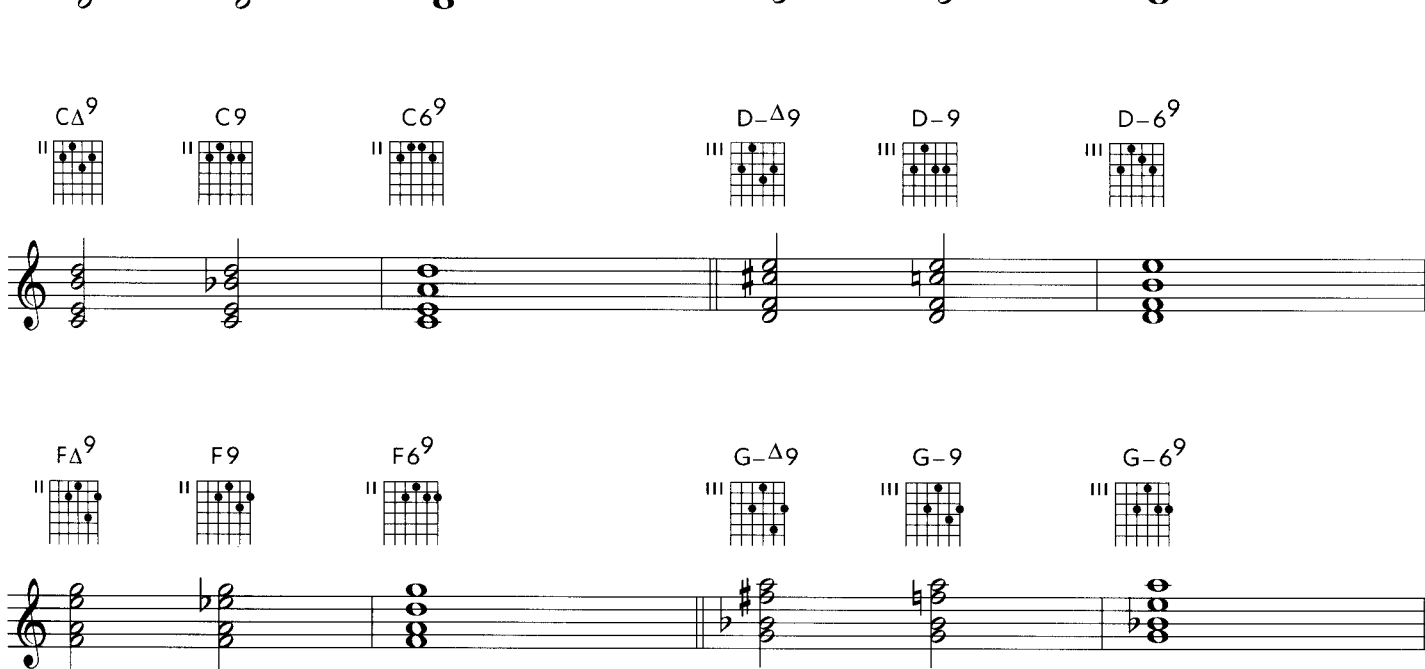
Now that we've omitted the fifth, we have room for other colours, for example, the ninth:

● 1-3-7-9 Voicings



Fingerings for 1-3-7-9 voicings:

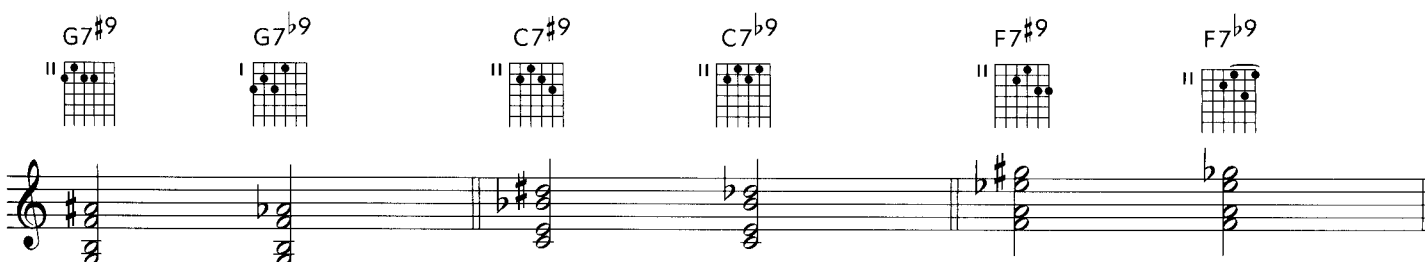
- GΔ⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- G9: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- G6⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- A-Δ⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- A-9: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- A-6⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)



Musical notation for 1-3-7-9 voicings:

- CΔ⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- C9: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- C6⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- D-Δ⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- D-9: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- D-6⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- FΔ⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- F9: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- F6⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- G-Δ⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- G-9: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- G-6⁹: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)

● Dominant 7th Voicings with Altered 9th (1-3-7-9)



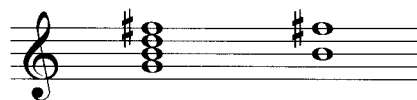
Fingerings for dominant 7th voicings with altered 9th (1-3-7-9):

- G7^{#9}: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- G7^{b9}: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- C7^{#9}: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- C7^{b9}: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- F7^{#9}: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)
- F7^{b9}: 1 (root), 3 (3rd), 7 (7th), 9 (9th)

Musical notation for dominant 7th voicings with altered 9th (1-3-7-9):

MAJOR 7TH MATRIX

The next step in chord reduction is to omit the root. That leaves us with just the third and seventh. Now we are free to experiment with the colours available to us around these notes. Let's look at GΔ:



After omitting the root and fifth, we are left with B and F#. Let's see where we can place these two notes on the fingerboard, so that we can look for the colours available to us around them.

The first staff illustrates the B and F# notes in the first six positions of the fretboard (VII, IV, II, IX, IV, I). The second staff illustrates the B and F# notes in positions IX, VII, IV, and II, showing higher register voicings.

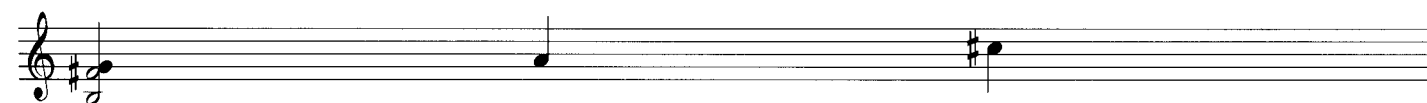
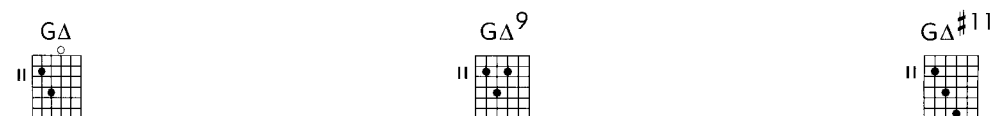
● 3rd + 7th + D-String Colours



● 3rd + 7th + A-String Colours



● 3rd + 7th + G-String Colours



● 7th + 3rd + G-String Colours



● 7th + 3rd + B-String Colours



● 7th + 3rd + G-String Colours

Diagram 1: GΔ (IV)

Diagram 2: GΔ⁹ (IV)

Diagram 3: GΔ^{#11} (IV)

● 3rd + 7th + B-String Colours

Diagram 1: GΔ (VIII)

Diagram 2: GΔ⁹ (IX)

Diagram 3: GΔ^{#11} (IX)

● 3rd + 7th + G-String Colours

Diagram 1: GΔ^{#11} (VI)

Diagram 2: GΔ (VII)

Diagram 3: GΔ^{#5} (VII)

Diagram 4: GΔ¹³ (VII)

● 3rd + 7th + E-String Colours

Diagram 1: GΔ (III)

Diagram 2: GΔ⁹ (IV)

Diagram 3: GΔ^{#11} (IV)

● 3rd + 7th + B-String Colours

Diagram 1: GΔ^{#11} (II)

Diagram 2: GΔ (II)

Diagram 3: GΔ^{#5} (II)

Diagram 4: GΔ¹³ (II)

▲ Some Interesting Combinations

Diagram illustrating various extended 7th chords and their combinations, organized into four rows of guitar fretboard diagrams and corresponding musical notation.

Row 1:

- $G\Delta^{9\#11}$ (Fret II)
- $G\Delta^9$ (Fret 13)
- $G\Delta^{9\#11}$ (Fret V)
- $G\Delta^9$ (Fret V)
- $G\Delta^{\#59}$ (Fret V)
- $G\Delta^{9\#11}$ (Fret IX)

Row 2:

- $G\Delta^{\#11}$ (Fret II)
- $G\Delta^{9\#11}$ (Fret II)
- $G\Delta^{\#5}$ (Fret IV)
- $G\Delta^{\#5}$ (Fret IV)
- $G\Delta^9$ (Fret IV)
- $G\Delta^{\#11}$ (Fret VI)

Row 3:

- $G\Delta^{\#11}$ (Fret II)
- $G\Delta^{\#5}$ (Fret II)
- $G\Delta^{9\#11}$ (Fret V)
- $G\Delta^{\#11}$ (Fret VII)
- $G\Delta^9$ (Fret V)

Row 4:

- $G\Delta^{\#11}$ (Fret VIII)
- $G\Delta^{9\#11}$ (Fret IX)
- $G\Delta^9$ (Fret IX)
- $G\Delta^9$ (Fret X)

Row 5:

- $G\Delta^{\#11}$ (Fret XII)
- $G\Delta^{9\#11}$ (Fret X)
- $G\Delta^{\#5}$ (Fret X)
- $G\Delta^9$ (Fret X)

Each fretboard diagram shows the chord voicing on a six-string guitar. The corresponding musical notation below each row shows the chord structure on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

MINOR 7TH MATRIX

Now let's do the same with minor 7th chords – for example D-7:

● $b7^{th} + b3^{rd} + D\text{-String Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of D-11, D-7, and D-7¹³ chords on the D-string, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation.

D-11: V (Fret 1)

D-7: VII (Fret 2)

D-7¹³: VIII (Fret 3)

● $b7^{th} + b3^{rd} + G\text{-String Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of D-11, D-7, and D-7¹³ chords on the G-string, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation.

D-11: III (Fret 1)

D-7: II (Fret 2)

D-7¹³: III (Fret 3)

● $b3^{rd} + b7^{th} + G\text{-String Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of D-7, D-9, and D-11 chords on the G-string, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation.

D-7: VII (Fret 1)

D-9: VIII (Fret 2)

D-11: VIII (Fret 3)

● $b3^{rd} + b7^{th} + B\text{-String Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of D-7, D-9, and D-11 chords on the B-string, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation.

D-7: III (Fret 1)

D-9: III (Fret 2)

D-11: III (Fret 3)

● $b3^{rd} + b7^{th} + A\text{-String Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of D-11, D-7, and D-7¹³ chords on the A-string, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation.

D-11: X (Fret 1)

D-7: X (Fret 2)

D-7¹³: X (Fret 3)

● $\flat 3^{rd} + \flat 7^{th} + D\text{-String Colours}$

D-11 D-7 D-7¹³

V V V

● $\flat 3^{rd} + \flat 7^{th} + G\text{-String Colours}$

D-11 D-7 D-7¹³

I I I

● $\flat 7^{th} + \flat 3^{rd} + A\text{-String Colours}$

D-9 D-11 D-7 D-7¹³

VII X X X

● $\flat 7^{th} + \flat 3^{rd} + D\text{-String Colours}$

D-9 D-11 D-7 D-7¹³

II V V V

● $\flat 7^{th} + \flat 3^{rd} + B\text{-String Colours}$

D-11 D-7 D-7¹³

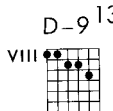
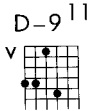
VIII X X

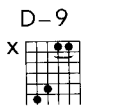
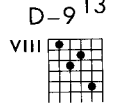
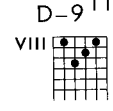
● $\flat 7^{th} + \flat 3^{rd} + E\text{-String Colours}$

D-11 D-7 D-7¹³

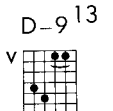
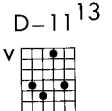
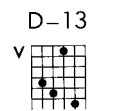
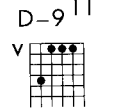
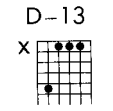
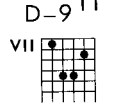
III V V

▲ *Some Interesting Combinations*

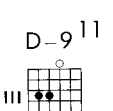
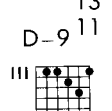
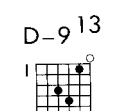
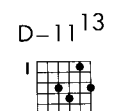
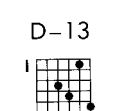
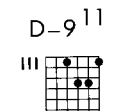



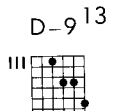
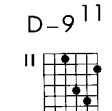
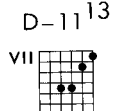
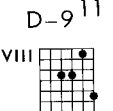
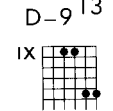
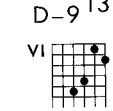








DOMINANT 7TH MATRIX

Dominant 7th chords have a wider array of extension possibilities than any other chord types we have seen so far – b9, #9, #11/b5, #5/b13, 13. “Tritone substitution” makes it possible for us to use each dominant 7th chord shape in two different situations. For example, if we take G7 and Db7 in their reduced forms, we have:

The image shows two musical staves. The first staff is for a G7 chord, with notes G4, B4, D5, and F5. The second staff is for a D♭7 chord, with notes D♭4, F4, A♭4, and C5. Both chords are shown in a simplified, blocky notation style.

As we can see, these two chords have the same third and (b) seventh, only reversed. To be able to apply the “dominant 7th matrix,” we have to learn to see each dominant 7th shape in two ways simultaneously. For example:

● 3rd + $\flat$ 7th + G-String Colours

III A7 $\flat$ 9

IV A9

IV A7 $\sharp$ 9

IV A7 $\sharp$ 11

● 3rd + $\flat$ 7th + $\flat$ 9th + B-String Colours

I A7 $\flat$ 9 $\sharp$ 9

II A7 $\flat$ 9

III A7 $\flat$ 9 $\sharp$ 11

III A7 $\flat$ 9

III A7 $\flat$ 9 $\flat$ 13

III A7 $\flat$ 9¹³

● 3rd + $\flat$ 7th + 9th + B-String Colours

II A9

III A9¹¹

IV A9 $\sharp$ 11

IV A9

IV A9 $\flat$ 13

IV A9¹³

● 3rd + $\flat$ 7th + $\sharp$ 9th + B-String Colours

IV A7 $\sharp$ 9 $\flat$ 11

IV A7 $\sharp$ 9

IV A7 $\sharp$ 9 $\flat$ 13

IV A7 $\sharp$ 9¹³

▲ 5-String Forms

I A7 $\sharp$ 5 $\flat$ 9^{#9}

II A9 $\sharp$ 11¹³

III A7 $\flat$ 9 $\sharp$ 11

III A7 $\flat$ 9

IV A9

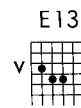
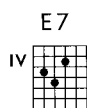
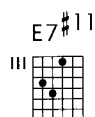
IV A7 $\sharp$ 9 $\flat$ 13

IV A7 $\sharp$ 5 $\flat$ 9^{#9}

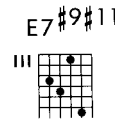
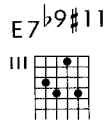
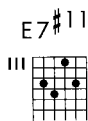
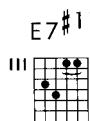
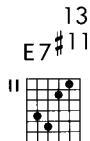
IV A7 $\sharp$ 9¹³

5 4

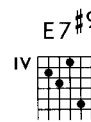
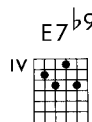
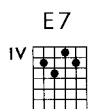
• $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}} + \text{G-String Colours}$



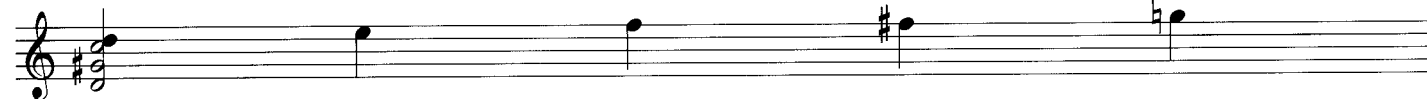
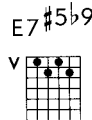
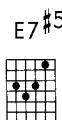
• $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}}$
 $\bullet 3^{\text{rd}} + \flat 7^{\text{th}} + \#11^{\text{th}} + \text{B-String Colours} = \text{Bb } 3^{\text{rd}} + 7^{\text{th}} + 8^{\text{th}} = \text{A B-Shy Colour}$



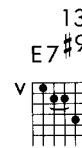
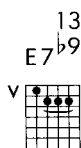
• $7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}}$
 $\bullet 3^{\text{rd}} + \flat 7^{\text{th}} + 5^{\text{th}} + \text{B-String Colours}$



• $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}}$
 $\bullet 3^{\text{rd}} + \flat 7^{\text{th}} + \#5^{\text{th}} + \text{B-String Colours}$



• $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}}$
 $\bullet 3^{\text{rd}} + \flat 7^{\text{th}} + 13^{\text{th}} + \text{B-String Colours}$



▲ 5-String Forms

Diagram 1: E7^{#5}9^{#11} (I), E9^{#11} (II), E7^{#9}11 (III), E7 (IV), E7^{b9}11 (III)

Diagram 2: E7^{b9}11 (IV), E7^{#5}9^{#11} (V), E7^{b9}11 (V), E9^{#11} (V), E9¹³ (V)

● 3rd + A-String + ^b7th Colours

Diagram 3: A11 (V), A7^{#11} (V), A9^{#11} (V), A7^{#5} (V), A13 (V)

● 3rd + A-String + ^b7th + #9th Colours

Diagram 4: A7^{#9}11 (V), A7^{#9} (V), A7^{#5}9 (V), A7^{#9} (V)

● ^b7th + 3rd + B-String Colours

Diagram 5: A11 (III), A7^{#11} (IV), A7⁹13 (V), A7^{#5} (V), A13 (V)

4 3
 ● $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}} + 11$ + E-String Colours

13
 A7¹¹ A¹¹ A¹¹ A9¹¹

● $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}} + \sharp 11$ + E-String Colours

13
 A7^{#11}^{b13} A7^{#11} A7^{#11} A7^{#11} A7^{b9}^{#11} A9^{#11} A7^{#9}^{#11}

● $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}} + 5$ + E-String Colours

A¹³ A7 A7 A7^{b9} A9 A7^{#9}

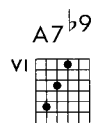
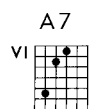
● $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}} + \sharp 5$ + E-String Colours

A7^{#5} A7^{#5} A7^{#5}^{b9} A7^{#5}⁹ A7^{#5}^{#9}

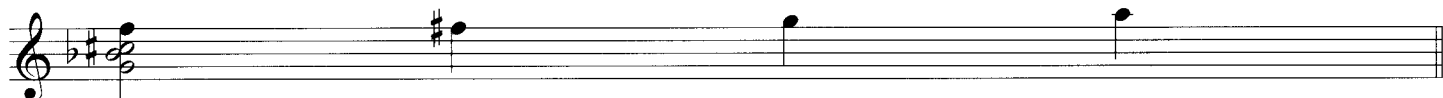
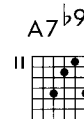
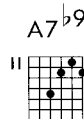
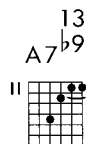
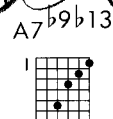
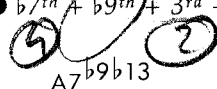
● $\flat 7^{\text{th}} + 3^{\text{rd}} + 13$ + E-String Colours

A¹³ A¹³ A7^{b9}¹³ A9¹³ A7^{#9}¹³ A¹³ A7¹¹¹³

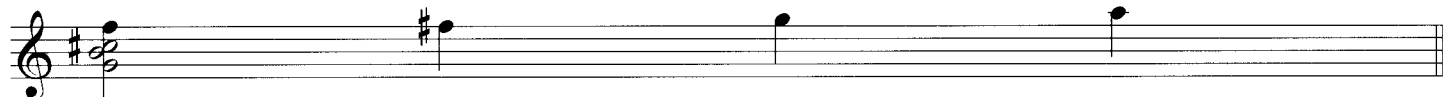
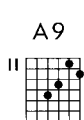
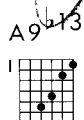
● $\flat 7^{th}$ + D-String + 3^{rd} Colours



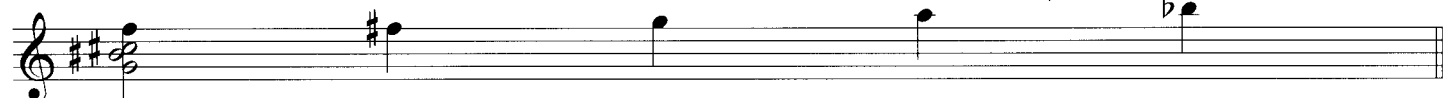
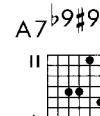
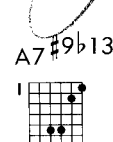
● $\flat 7^{th}$ + $\flat 9^{th}$ + 3^{rd} + E-String Colours



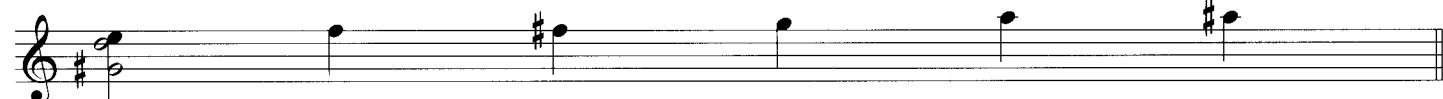
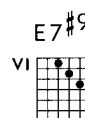
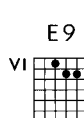
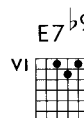
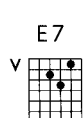
● $\flat 7^{th}$ + 9^{th} + 3^{rd} + E-String Colours



● $\flat 7^{th}$ + $\sharp 9^{th}$ + 3^{rd} + E-String Colours



● 3^{rd} + $\flat 7^{th}$ + B-String Colours



● $3^{rd} + \flat 7^{th} + 1 + E\text{-String Colours}$

Diagram illustrating the first set of extended 7th chords, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation on a staff.

Chords and Fingerings:

- E9 (II)
- E7 $\sharp 9$ (III)
- E7 (IV)
- E11 (V)
- E7 $\sharp 11$ (V)
- E7 (V)
- E7 $\flat 13$ (V)
- E7 13 (V)

● $3^{rd} + \flat 7^{th} + \flat 9^{th} + E\text{-String Colours}$

Diagram illustrating the second set of extended 7th chords, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation on a staff.

Chords and Fingerings:

- E7 $\flat 9 \sharp 9$ (III)
- E7 $\flat 9$ (IV)
- E7 $\flat 9 \sharp 11$ (VI)
- E7 $\flat 9$ (VI)
- E7 $\flat 9 \flat 13$ (VI)
- E7 $\flat 9$ (VI)

● $3^{rd} + \flat 7^{th} + 9^{th} + E\text{-String Colours}$

Diagram illustrating the third set of extended 7th chords, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation on a staff.

Chords and Fingerings:

- E9 (IV)
- E9 11 (V)
- E9 $\sharp 11$ (VI)
- E9 (VI)
- E9 $\flat 13$ (VI)
- E9 13 (VI)

● $3^{rd} + \flat 7^{th} + \sharp 9^{th} + E\text{-String Colours}$

Diagram illustrating the fourth set of extended 7th chords, showing fingerings and corresponding musical notation on a staff.

Chords and Fingerings:

- E7 $\sharp 9$ (IV)
- E7 $\sharp 9 \sharp 11$ (VI)
- E7 $\sharp 9$ (VI)
- E7 $\sharp 9 \flat 13$ (VI)
- E7 $\sharp 9$ (VI)
- E7 $\sharp 9$ (VI)

● $\flat 7^{th} + \flat 9^{th} + 3^{rd} + B\text{-String Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of chords and their corresponding notes on a staff:

- $A7 \flat 9 \flat 13$ (VI)
- $A7 \flat 9$ (VI)
- $A7 \flat 9$ (VI)
- $A7 \flat 9$ (VI)

● $\flat 7^{th} + 9^{th} + 3^{rd} + B\text{-String Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of chords and their corresponding notes on a staff:

- $A9 \flat 13$ (VI)
- $A9 \flat 13$ (VI)
- $A9$ (VI)
- $A9$ (VI)

● $\flat 7^{th} + \sharp 9^{th} + 3^{rd} + B\text{-String Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of chords and their corresponding notes on a staff:

- $A7 \sharp 9 \flat 13$ (VI)
- $A7 \sharp 9$ (VI)
- $A7 \sharp 9$ (VI)
- $A7 \sharp 9$ (VI)

● $3^{rd} + D\text{-String} + \flat 7^{th} \text{ Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of chords and their corresponding notes on a staff:

- $E11$ (VII)
- $E7 \sharp 11$ (VII)
- $E7$ (VII)
- $E7 \sharp 5$ (VII)
- $E13$ (VII)

● $3^{rd} + D\text{-String} + \flat 7^{th} + 9^{th} \text{ Colours}$

Diagrammatic representation of chords and their corresponding notes on a staff:

- $E9 \flat 11$ (VII)
- $E9 \sharp 11$ (VII)
- $E9 \flat 13$ (VII)
- $E9 \flat 13$ (VII)

▲ Some Interesting Shapes

● Colours Under $b7^{th} + 3^{rd}$
● Colours Under $3^{rd} + b7^{th}$
● $3^{rd} + G\text{-String} + b7^{th}$ Colours

▲ Additional Possibilities

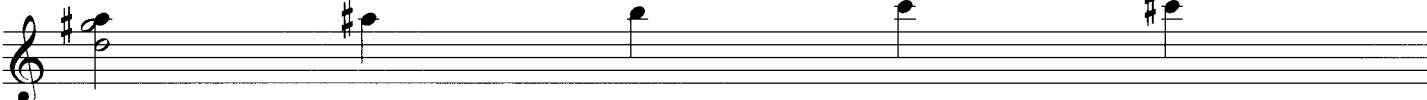
● D-String + $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$ + 3^{rd} Colours

E11 VII  E7 $\sharp 11$ VII  E7 VII  E7 $\flat 13$ VII  E13 VII 



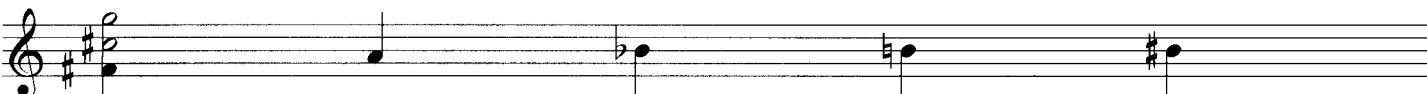
● $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$ + 3^{rd} + E-String Colours

E11 V  E7 $\sharp 11$ VI  E7 VII  E7 $\flat 13$ VII  E13 VII 



● D-String + 3^{rd} + $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$ Colours

A13 IV  A7 VI  A7 $\flat 9$ VI  A9 VI  A7 $\sharp 9$ VI 



● 3^{rd} + $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$ + E-String Colours

A7 V  A7 $\flat 9$ VI  A9 VI  A7 $\sharp 9$ VI  A11 VI  A7 $\sharp 11$ VI 



● G-String + $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$ + 3^{rd} Colours

A7 $\flat 9$ VIII  A9 VIII  A7 $\sharp 9$ V  A11 VII  A7 $\sharp 11$ VIII  A7 $\flat 13$ VIII  A13 VIII 



● G-String + 3^{rd} + $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$ Colours

E7 $\sharp 11$ VIII  E7 $\flat 13$ IX  E13 VI  E7 $\flat 9$ IX  E9 IX  E7 $\sharp 9$ IX 

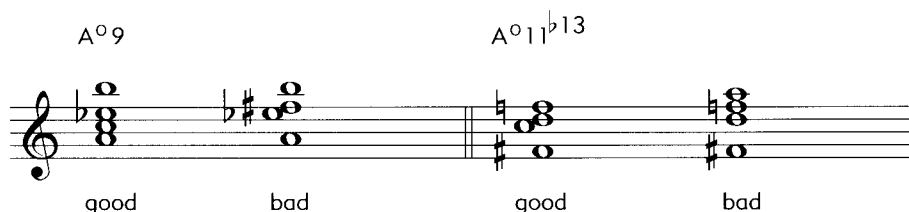


EXTENDED DIMINISHED 7TH CHORDS

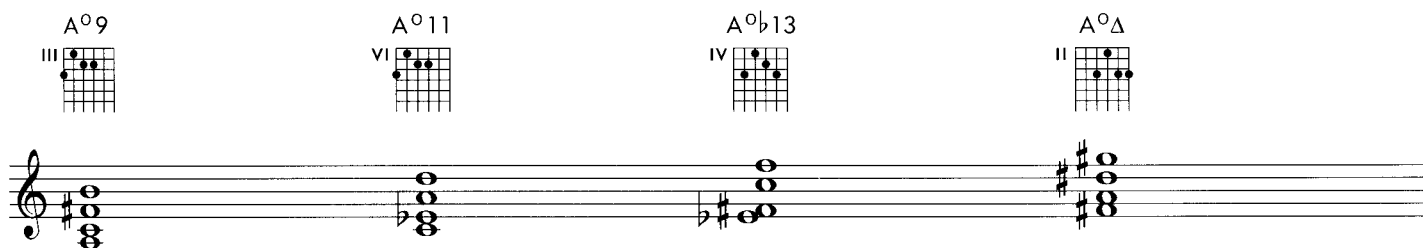
So far, we haven't looked at extended diminished 7th chords. Let's do it! The scale that is commonly used with diminished chords is the "whole step-half step" scale, or "symmetrical diminished" scale. It offers us the following extensions on a diminished 7th chord:



We can see that, as in all other scales, the "upper structures" form a chord arpeggio – in this case another diminished 7th chord. This is again a result of the symmetry of the diminished scale and means we can use any diminished 7th chord as a substitute for another, as long as it belongs to the same scale (there are only three possibilities). This looks good on paper but doesn't always work in reality, because the "ear" needs to hear at least a minor third for a chord shape to function as an extended diminished 7th:



Keeping this in mind, I've tried to see how many shapes I could find. Remember, these are not diminished 7th chords – they are "reduced" forms with extensions then added. They are not symmetrical and therefore don't produce the same colours when moved up or down in minor thirds, as the diminished 7th chords do. However, the changing textures, they offer us, are always within the given scale:



EXTENDED DIMINISHED 7TH CHORDS

A[°]9 D[°]9 G[°]9

IV IV V

A[°]11 D[°]11 G[°]11

IV IV V

A[°]9 D[°]9 G[°]9

IV V V

A[°]11 D[°]11 G[°]11

IV IV V

A[°]9 D[°]9 G[°]9

VIII VIII VIII

▲ Combining Exercises

IV $A^{\circ 9 \flat 13}$ VII $C^{\circ \flat 13}$ V $E^{\flat \circ \flat 13}$ VIII $F^{\sharp \circ \flat 13}$

IV $A^{\circ 9 \flat 13}$ IV $A^{\circ 7}$ VI $E^{\flat \circ \Delta 11}$ V $E^{\flat \circ 7}$ III $C^{\circ \Delta 11}$ II $C^{\circ 7}$ V $A^{\circ \Delta 11}$ IV $A^{\circ 7}$

IV $A^{\circ 9}$ V $A^{\circ 7}$ II $C^{\circ 9}$ III $C^{\circ 7}$ V $E^{\flat \circ 9}$ VI $E^{\flat \circ 7}$ IV $F^{\sharp \circ 9}$ IV $F^{\sharp \circ 7}$

DIMINISHED 7TH – DOMINANT 7TH SUBSTITUTION RULE

Now that we've gone into quite a lot of detail with extended diminished 7th chords, let's look at another important use for them. I'm sure that most of us have noticed the similarity between dominant 7th ± 9/#11/13 shapes (from the dominant 7th matrix) and the extended diminished 7th. They both come from the same scale (symmetrical diminished) but starting on different notes one half step apart. This means we can use a diminished 7th shape (with or without extensions) also as a dominant 7th ± 9/#11/13 a half step lower.

$A^{\circ} \longrightarrow A\flat 7^{\flat 9}$
 $A^{\circ} 9^{\flat 13} \longrightarrow A\flat 7^{\sharp 9 \flat 13}$

Everything we just learned about diminished 7th chords can also be applied to dominant 7th #11/13 chords with altered 9th. Don't underestimate the value of this rule! It provides us with an enormous array of chordal colours.

BODY & SOUL

The rich colour of four-note voicings is well suited to ballads, like "Body & Soul."

Green/Sour/Heymann/Eaton

(arr. Peter O'Mara)

Chord labels: E_b-7 , B_b7^b9 , E_b-9 , A_b7^b9 , $D_b\Delta^9$, G_b9^{13} , $F-9^{11}$, $E^\circ 9$

Chord labels: E_b-9^{11} , E_b-9 , $C^\circ 11$, $F7^\#9$, B_b-11 , E_b-9 , A_b7^b9 , $F-7$, $B_b7^\#9$, $D_b\text{add}9$, $E-9$, $A7^b9$

Chord labels: $D6^9$, $E-9^{11}$, $D\text{add}9$, $G-9^{11}$, $F^\#7^\#5$, $B7^\#5$, $E-9$, $A7^b9$, $D\Delta^9$

Chord labels: $D-\Delta^9$, $D-9$, $G9^{13}$, $G7^\#11$, $C\Delta^9$, $E_b^\circ\Delta$, $D-7$, $G13$, $G7^b13$, $C9$, $B7^\#5$, B_b9^{13} , $B_b7^\#9$

D.C. al Φ

Chord labels: $D\Delta^{13}$, $D_b\Delta^\#11$

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IN YOUR OWN SWEET WAY

Dave Brubeck

(arr. Peter O'Mara)

Chords and measures shown in the score:

- Measures 1-4: A-11, D7^{b9}, G-11, C9, C-9, F13, BbΔ⁹, EbΔ⁹
- Measures 5-8: Ab-7, Db7^{b9}, GbΔ⁹, CbΔ⁹, C7#9, F7^{b13}, BbΔ⁹
- Measures 9-12: C7#9, F7^{b9}, BbΔ, Bb6, E-9, A13, DΔ⁹, B7^{b9}
- Measures 13-16: E-7, A7^{b9}, DΔ¹³, DΔ^{#11}, D-7, G7^{#11}, CΔ⁹, CΔ¹³
- Measures 17-20: Eb-9, Ab13, D-7, G7

1. *fine*

2.

Dal al fine (1st ending)

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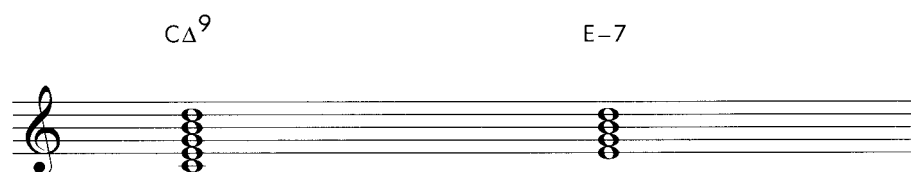
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Chapter 4

EXTENDING 7TH CHORDS USING ASCENDING RELATIVE THIRDS

We've built up quite a chord vocabulary by now, but I'm sure there's some we've missed. By leaving out the root and fifth, we were able to extend our 7th chords with 9, (#)11, and 13 colours. Another way to extend 7th chords is to use parallel thirds. That is, to get a 9th colour, we move up to the chord on the third step of the scale, our original chord comes from. For example, we want to find voicings for CΔ⁹: we move up to the third step of the C major scale (where the CΔ⁹ comes from) and we find E-7.



This means that we can use *any* E-7 voicing as CΔ⁹ as long as our voicing is not too close to our bass note "C." This substitution system works for *every* type of 7th chord, so here are some more applications of the system (white circles show the position of the original root):

● Δ⁹: use -7 on the 3rd

● Dom 9: use -7^b5

CΔ⁹
(Ionian)

E-7
(or any E-7 voicing higher up)

G9
(Mixolydian)

Bø
(or any Bø voicing higher up)

● -9: use Δ⁷

● -6,9: use Δ[#]11

D-9
(Dorian)

FΔ
(or any FΔ voicing higher up)

D-6⁹
(Dorian)

FΔ[#]11
(and so on...)

● -7,11: use -#5 on the 5th

D-11

(Dorian)

A-7^{#5}

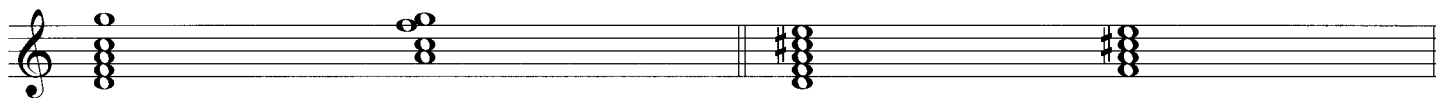


● -Δ9: use Δ#5 on the 3rd

D-Δ9

(Mel. Minor)

FΔ^{#5}



● -7^{b5},9: use -Δ7 on the 3rd

Dø9

(Locrian $\flat 2$)

F-Δ



OTHER SUBSTITUTE POSSIBILITIES FOR 7TH CHORDS (INCLUDING 5TH, $\flat 7^{\text{TH}}$ AND $\flat 9^{\text{TH}}$)

● Dom 9,13: use Δ^{#11} on the $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$

G9¹³

(Mixolydian)

FΔ^{#11}

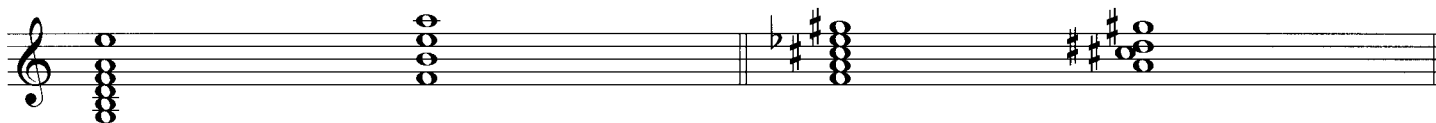


● Dom 9,13: use Δ^{#11} on the 3rd

F7^{#5#9}

(Altered – from F[#] Mel. Minor)

AΔ^{#11}



● Dom 9,13: use Δ^{#5} on the 3rd (no $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$!)

F7^{#5#9}

(Altered)

AΔ^{#5}

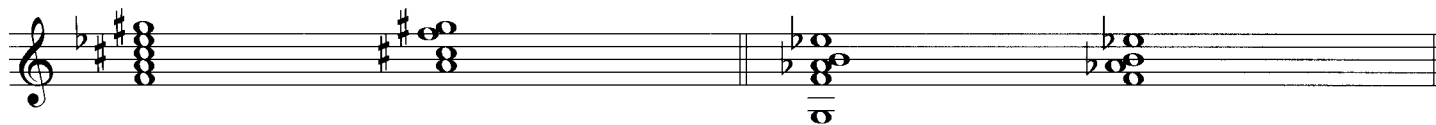


● Dom 9,13: use -7^{b5} on the $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$

G7 ^{$\flat 9 \flat 13$}

(Altered – from A $\flat$ Mel. Minor)

Fø



● Dom 7,sus9: use -7 on the 5th

G7sus⁹

(Mixolydian)

D-7

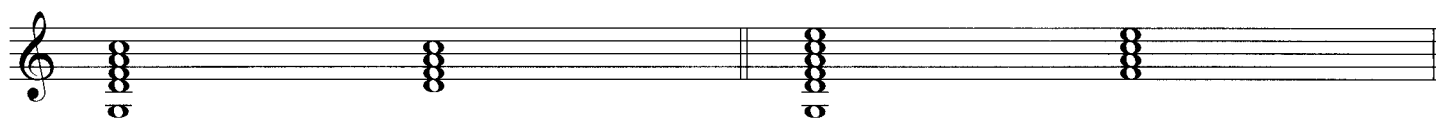


● Dom 7,sus9,13: use Δ7 on the $\flat 7^{\text{th}}$

G7sus⁹¹³

(Mixolydian)

FΔ



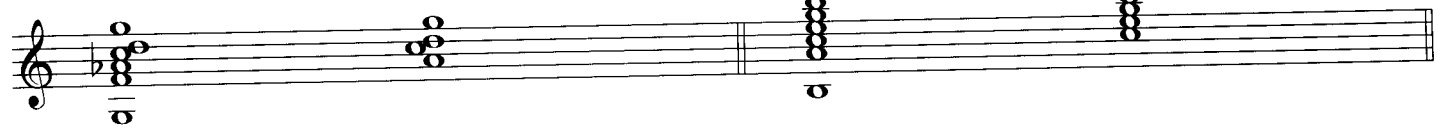
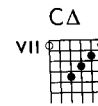
● Dom 7,sus $\flat$ 9: use $\Delta\sharp 11$ on the $\flat 9^{th}$

G7sus $\flat$ 9



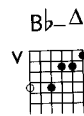
● Dom 7,sus $\flat$ 9, $\flat$ 13: use Δ on the $\flat 9^{th}$

$\flat 13$
B7sus $\flat$ 9



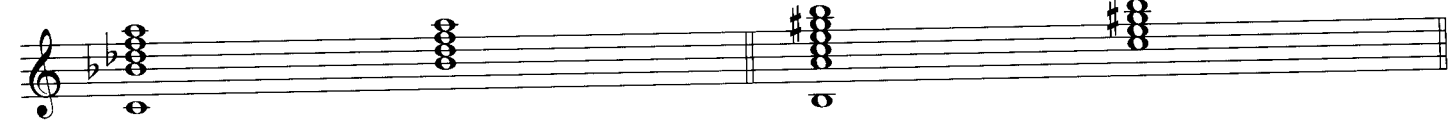
● Dom 7,sus $\flat$ 9,13: use $-\Delta$ on the $\flat 7^{th}$

$\flat 13$
C7sus $\flat$ 9



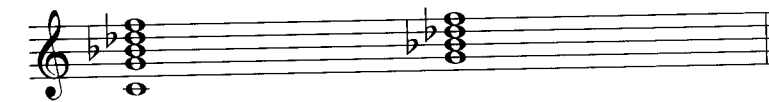
● Dom 7,sus $\flat$ 9,13: use $\Delta\sharp 5$ on the $\flat 9^{th}$

$\flat 13$
B7sus $\flat$ 9



● Dom 7,sus $\flat$ 9: use $-\flat 5$ on the 5^{th}

C7sus $\flat$ 9



PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS: II-V-I COMBINATIONS

I've always found it helpful to integrate new chord shapes into II-V-I progressions, as these appear often in jazz standards in all keys. Here are a few examples, but don't forget to transpose them to other keys!

Handwritten notes above the first row: *1 2 3 4* (above D-9), *7 2 4* (above G9¹³), *6-1* (above CΔ⁹).

Chord shapes and progression:

- D-9 (V)
- G9¹³ (IV)
- CΔ⁹ (III)

Handwritten notes above the second row: *1 2* (above D-9), *4 5 6* (above G7^{b9b13}), *5 2* (above CΔ⁹).

Chord shapes and progression:

- D-9 (VIII)
- G7^{b9b13} (VIII)
- CΔ⁹ (VII)

Handwritten notes above the third row: *1 2 3* (above A-9), *2 3 4* (above D7^{b9}), *4 5 6* (above GΔ⁹).

Chord shapes and progression:

- A-9 (V)
- D7^{b9} (V)
- GΔ⁹ (IV)

Handwritten notes above the fourth row: *1 2 3* (above A-9), *1 2 3* (above D7^{#5#11}), *1 2 3* (above GΔ^{9#11}).

Chord shapes and progression:

- A-9 (I)
- D7^{#5#11} (I)
- GΔ^{9#11} (II)

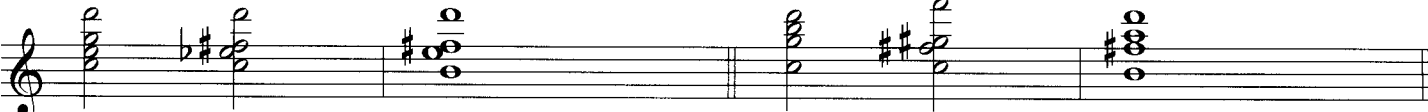
A-9 VII 
 D7¹³_{b9} VII 
 GΔ⁹ V 

A-9¹¹ VII 
 D7¹³_{b9#11} VII 
 GΔ^{9#11} V 



A-11 VIII 
 D7^{b9} VII 
 GΔ¹³ VII 

A-9¹¹ X 
 D7^{#9#11} IX 
 GΔ⁹ IX 



Aø9 VIII 
 D7^{#9b13} IX 
 GΔ⁹ IX 



IIø-V-I PROGRESSIONS (MINOR)

Dø9 V 
 G7^{b9b13} IV 
 C-Δ9 III 

Dø9¹¹ VIII 
 G7^{b13} VIII 
 C-Δ9 VI 



Aø V 
 D7^{#5b9} IX 
 G-Δ9 VIII 

Aø9 III 
 D7^{b9b13} III 
 G-6⁹ I 



III A $\emptyset$ 9¹¹ IV D7^{#9}13 X G- Δ 9

V A $\emptyset$ V D7^{#9}13 III G-6⁹

I A $\emptyset$ I D7^{#9}13 I G- Δ 9¹³

VII A $\emptyset$ IV D7^{#9}11 V G- Δ 9

IV A $\emptyset$ 9 IV D7^{b9}13 V G-6⁹

VII A $\emptyset$ 9 VI D7^{b9}13 V G- Δ 9¹³

VIII A $\emptyset$ 11 VII D7^{b9} VII G- Δ 13

VII A $\emptyset$ 11 IX D7^{b9}11 VIII G-9¹³

X A $\emptyset$ 9¹¹ X D7^{#9}13 VIII G- Δ 9

XI A $\emptyset$ 11 X D7^{b9} X G-11

EXOTIC EXAMPLES (EXTENDED SHAPES FOR -7 $\flat$ 5)

A $\emptyset$ 11 D7 $\flat$ 9 $\sharp$ 11 G- Δ 9

A $\emptyset$ 11 D7 $\sharp$ 9 $\flat$ 13 G- Δ 9

A $\emptyset$ 11 D7 $\flat$ 9 G-6 $\flat$ 9

A $\emptyset$ $\flat$ 13 D7 $\flat$ 9 $\sharp$ 9 G- Δ 13

A $\emptyset$ 11 D7 $\flat$ 9 $\sharp$ 11 G- Δ 9 $\flat$ 13

A $\emptyset$ 11 D7 $\sharp$ 9 $\flat$ 13 G- Δ 9

A $\emptyset$ 11 D7 $\sharp$ 9 $\sharp$ 11 G-9 $\flat$ 11

B $\emptyset$ $\flat$ 13 E7 $\flat$ 9 $\sharp$ 9 A- Δ 13

UPPER STRUCTURE 7TH CHORD SUBSTITUTES (NO 3RD)

Because of the complexity of some jazz chords, we often find that we don't have enough strings to cover all the notes required. In some cases it is possible to do away with the third and still "approximately" cover the chordal extensions required. For example:

- $\Delta 9, \#11$: use $\Delta 7$ on the 5th

$C\Delta 9\#11$



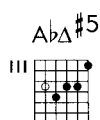
- Dom 9, #11: use $-\Delta$ on the 5th

$C9\#11$



- $-7b5$: use $\Delta\#5$ on the $b5^{th}$

$D\emptyset 9^{11}$



- $\Delta 9, \#11, 13$: use -7 on the 7th

$G\Delta 9\#11^{13}$



- Dom 9, #11, 13: use $\Delta\#5$ on the $b7^{th}$

$G\Delta 9\#11^{13}$



SOME EXAMPLES OVER STANDARD CHORD PROGRESSIONS

Here are a few practical examples of the shapes we have learned so far:

▲ Comping A Jazz Blues Using Extended 7th Chords

1 F⁹13 B^b9 F⁹13 C-9 F7^b9^b13

VI V II III II

B^b9 E^b9¹³ F⁹¹³¹¹ D7[#]9^b13

I IV III I

G-9 C7^b9[#]9 F⁹13 D7[#]9[#]11 G⁹¹³¹¹ C7[#]9^b13

III IV VI IV II II

2 F⁹13 B^b9¹³ F⁹¹³¹¹ C-9 F7[#]5[#]9

VII VI VI VI VI

B^b9[#]11 E^b9 F⁹¹³¹¹ D7[#]9[#]11

V V VI IV

G-9¹¹ C7^b9[#]11 A^o9 D7^b9^b13 G⁹13 C7^b9¹³

V V IV IV III V

Comping A Standard Using Ascending 3rd Relationships & Extended 7th Chords

1 Eø9 (G-Δ) A7^{b9} 13 C-9 (EbΔ) F9 13

5 F-9 (AbΔ) Bb7^{b9} 13 EbΔ⁹ (G-7) Ab9 13

9 BbΔ⁹ (D-7) Eø11 (BbΔ#5) A7^{b9} 13 D-9 (FΔ) Bb-9 (DbΔ) Eb9#11

13 FΔ⁹ (A-7) G-9 (BbΔ) Aø9 (C-Δ) D7^{b9b13}

17 G7^{b9#9} G7^{#9b13} C-6⁹ (EbΔ#11) C-Δ9 (EbΔ#5)

21 Ab9#11 (Eb-Δ) Ab7^{#11} 13 (GbΔ#5) BbΔ⁹ (D-7) %

25 Eø11 (BbΔ#5) A7^{#9b13} Dø11 (AbΔ#5) G7^{b9b13}

29 Cø9 (Eb-Δ) F7^{b9} 13 BbΔ⁹ (D-7)

Comping "RHYTHM CHANGES" Using Extended 7th Chords

The score is written for guitar in 4/4 time, featuring a sequence of 12 staves of chords and fingerings. The chords are primarily 7th chords with various extensions (9th, 11th, 13th) and alterations (b9, #9, #11, b13, #13). The fingerings are indicated by Roman numerals (I-IX) and superscripted numbers (13) for the 13th fret.

Staff 1: Bb9¹³ (V), G7^{b9b13} (IV), C-9 (III), F7^{b9}¹³ (II), D-9 (V), G7^{b9b13} (VIII), C-9 (VI), F7^{b9#11} (IV).

Staff 2: F-9 (V), Bb7^{b9}¹³ (IV), EbΔ⁹ (III), E°¹¹ (V), D7^{#9b13} (IV), G7^{b9}¹³ (III), C-9 (I), F7^{b9b13} (I).

Staff 3: Bb9 (V), G7^{b9}¹³ (VIII), C7^{#9b13} (VII), F7^{b9b13} (VI), D-9¹¹ (VIII), G7^{#9b13} (VI), C9^{#11}¹³ (V), F7^{#9b13} (IV).

Staff 4: F-9 (III), Bb7^{b9}¹³ (III), EbΔ⁹ (V), Ab9¹³ (IV), C-9 (IV), F7^{#9#11} (VII), Bb9¹³ (VI).

Staff 5: A-9 (VII), D7^{b9b13} (VI), G9 (V), G7^{#9b13} (VI).

Staff 6: G-9¹¹ (VIII), C7^{b9#11} (VII), C-9¹¹ (VI), F7^{#9#11} (VII).

Staff 7: Bb9¹³ (VI), G7^{b9b13} (VIII), Cø9 (VI), F7^{#9b13} (VI), D7^{b9#9} (VI), G7^{#9b13} (VIII), C7^{#9#11} (VII), F7^{#9b13} (VII).

Staff 8: F-9 (VI), Bb9^{#11}¹³ (VI), Eb9^{#11}¹³ (VIII), E°^{b13} (VIII), D7^{#11} (IX), G7^{b9b13} (IX), C13 (VIII), F7^{b9}¹³ (VII), Bb13 (VI).

Chapter 5

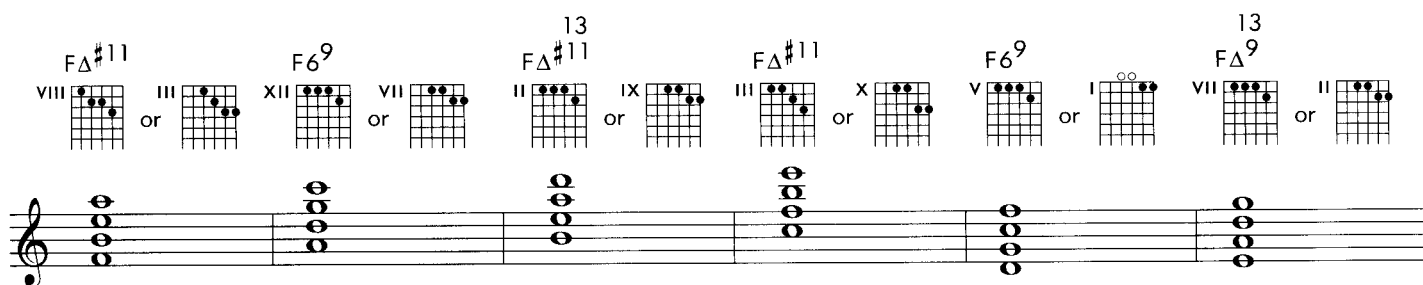
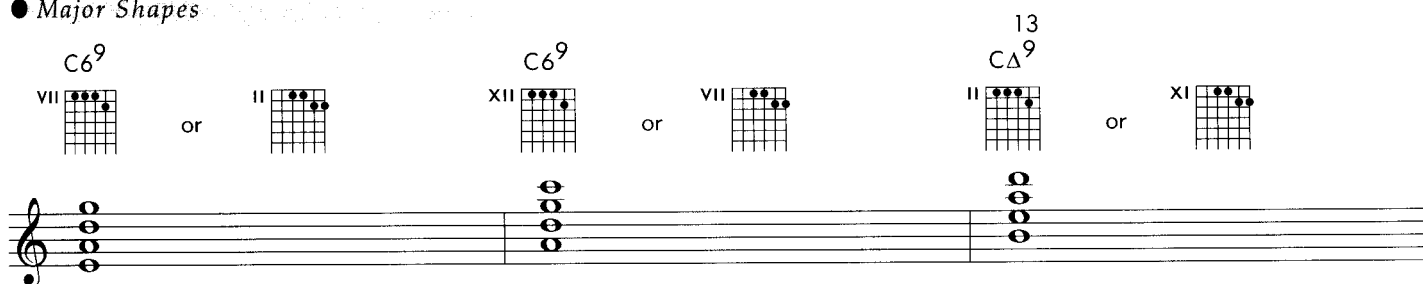
4th CHORDS (QUARTAL HARMONY)

A popular chordal sound in progressive jazz and fusion is the 4th. Here are some applications of this concept on the fingerboard:

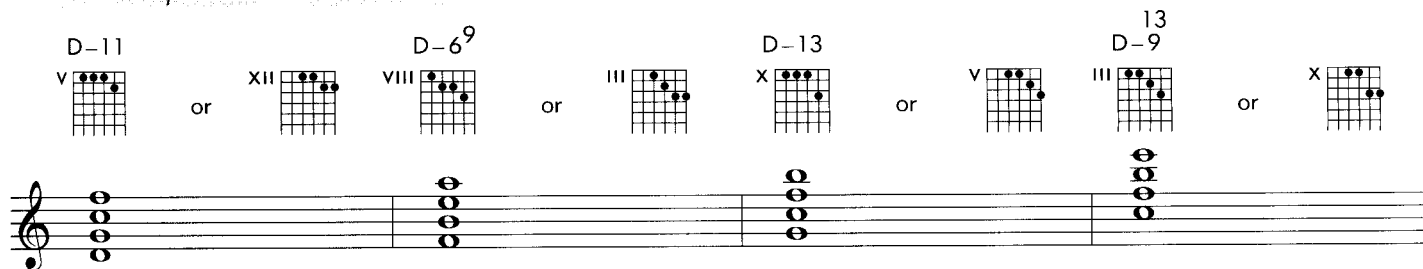
● Diatonic 4th Chords in C Major



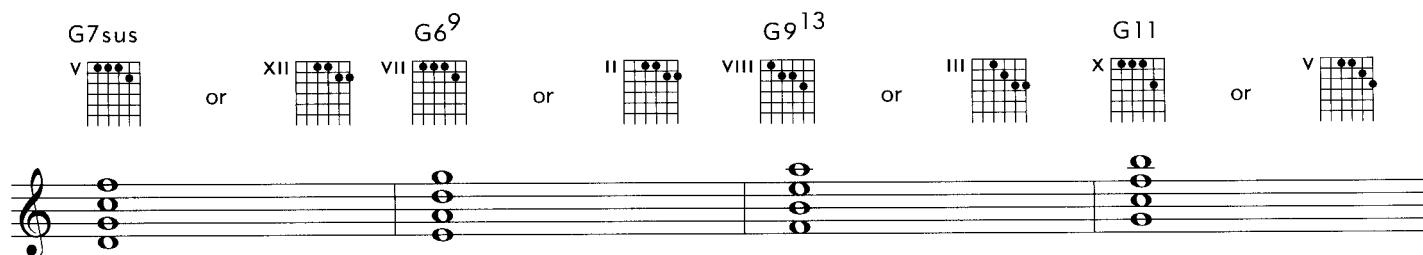
● Major Shapes



● Minor Shapes



● Dominant Mixolydian Shapes

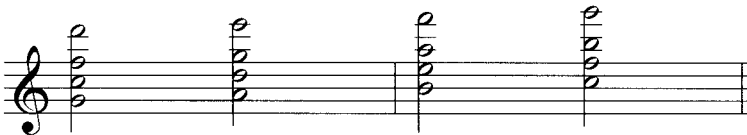


SOME OTHER POSSIBLE 4TH CONFIGURATIONS

Our examples again are C Ionian. Inversions and combinations yield 5th voicings and cluster sounds also (see next chapter).



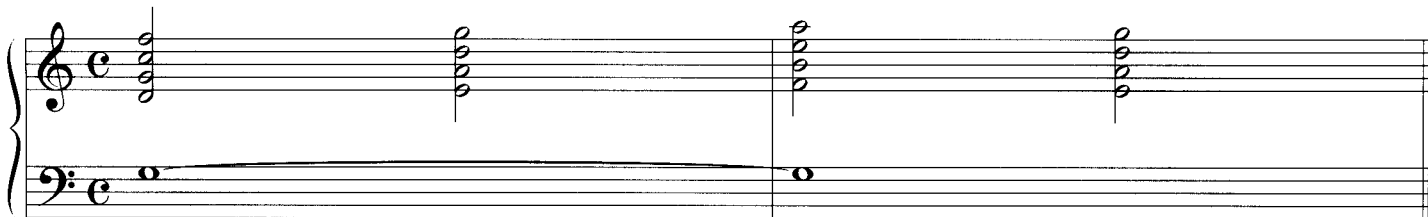
stretch !



EXAMPLES OF MODAL USAGE OF 4TH CHORDS

Try these progressions with other modes (Phrygian, Aeolian, Locrian, etc.). The Ionian mode doesn't work too well because of the dissonance between third and eleventh (b9).

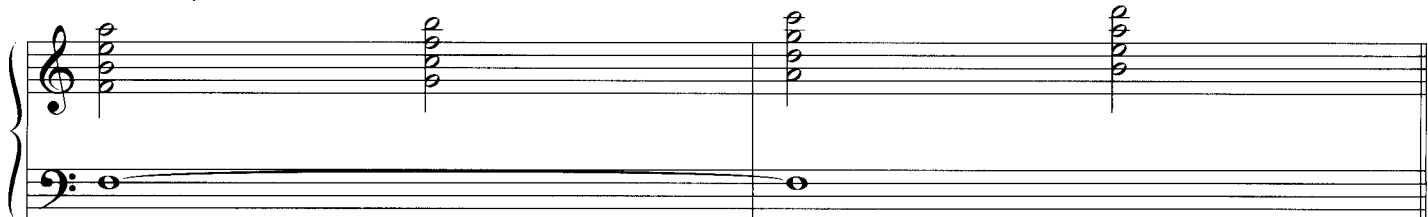
G7 Mixolydian ("Milestones")



D-7 Dorian ("Impressions")



FΔ^{#11} Lydian



COMPING A MINOR BLUES USING 4TH CHORDS

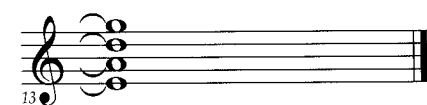
C-11

C-11¹³C-6⁹C7^{#9b13} (C7alt)F-9¹³

F-11

F-6⁹C-9¹³A7^{#5b9}Ab9¹³

Ab11

D7^{#5b9}G7^{#9b13}C-6⁹A7^{#5b9}D7^{#9b13}G7^{#9b13}C-6⁹

"MILES" 4TH CHORDS

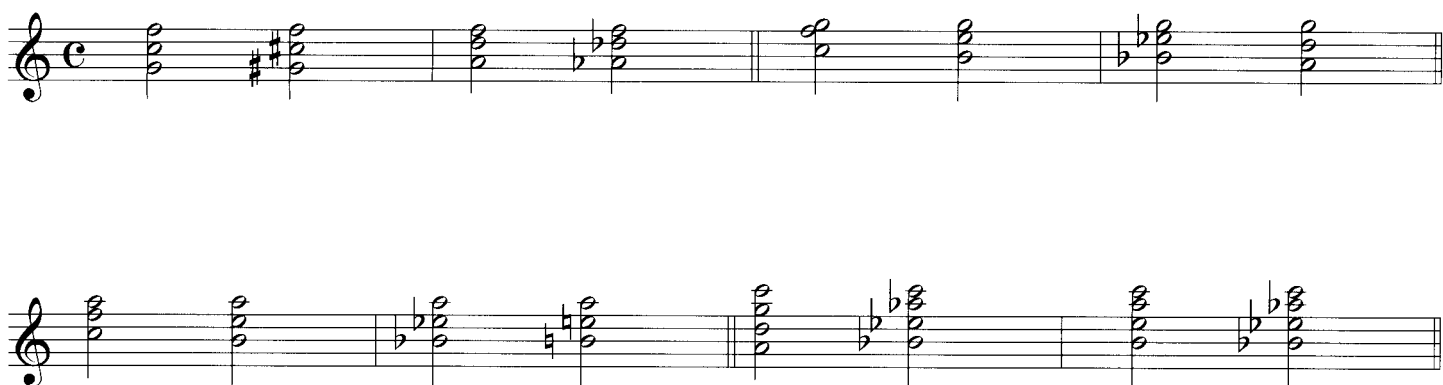
In the music of Miles Davis from the 1980s we can see an interesting use of 4th chords. A "modal" vamp, let's say F7 Mixolydian, would be comped with chromatic 4th chords, with an additional top note remaining fixed on a significant chordal tone. For example:

F7 (Mixolydian)



This device can also be applied to minor 7th vamps:

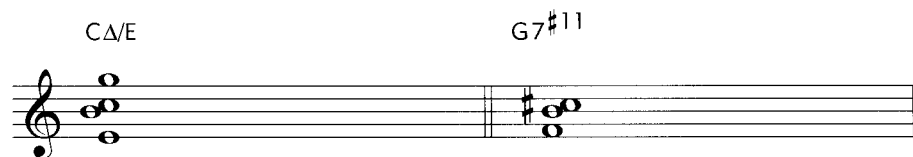
D-7 (Dorian)



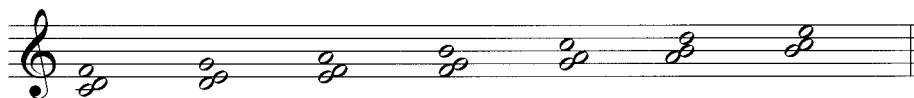
Chapter 6

CLUSTERS

Clusters are voicings in which at least one 2nd interval is present. The tension arising through this 2nd interval creates a special chordal character. We've already seen a number of voicings that can be classified as clusters, for example:



Let's look at a specific three-note cluster, consisting of a 2nd and a 3rd interval and how it moves through the C major scale:



An interesting effect is that any cluster with an "F" in it could be a D minor chord of some sort, because "F" is the minor third. I've made up a list of possible applications for these 2nd and 3rd clusters which can represent a vast array of chordal colours in many keys.

	13 FΔ ⁹					
13 AbΔ ^{#11}	D7sus	G9 ¹³		13 EbΔ ^{#11}	B-7 C9 ¹¹	A-9
13 EbΔ ⁹	13 BbΔ ^{#11}	Bø ¹¹	9 EbΔ ^{#5}	13 BbΔ ⁹	Gadd9	F#ø ¹¹
Bbadd9	A7sus	BbΔ ^{#11}	D-11 ¹³	D7sus	13 FΔ ^{#11}	FΔ ^{#11}
G7sus	E-7	FΔ	FΔ ^{9#11}	Fadd9	E7sus	13 D9 ¹¹
D-7	Cadd9	D-9	G7	A-7	CΔ ¹³	CΔ

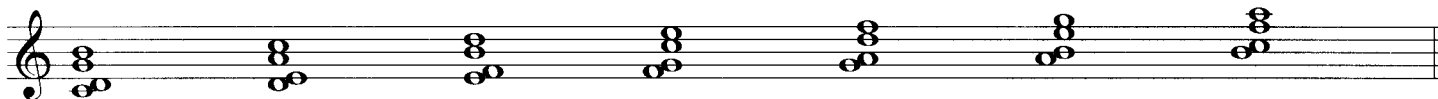
Clusters are a way of creating interesting chord colours without using a lot of notes. The tension created by the 2nd intervals, as well as the modal unity when moving a cluster through a scale, can be very useful in comping.

We can also build clusters with other intervals, but a 2nd must always be present:

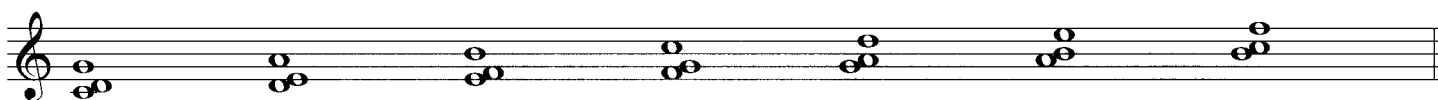
● 2nd + 4th



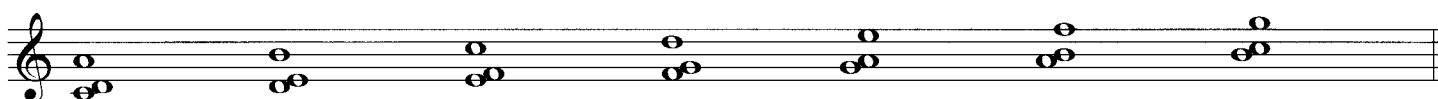
● 2nd + 4th + 3rd



● 2nd + 5th



● 2nd + 6th



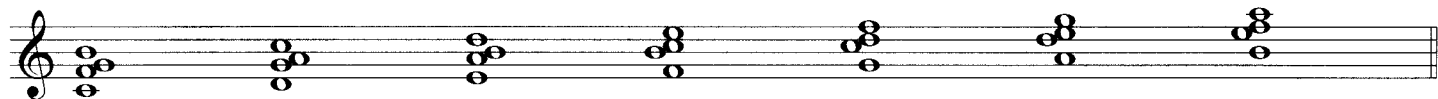
● 3rd + 2nd



● 4th + 2nd



● 4th + 2nd + 3rd



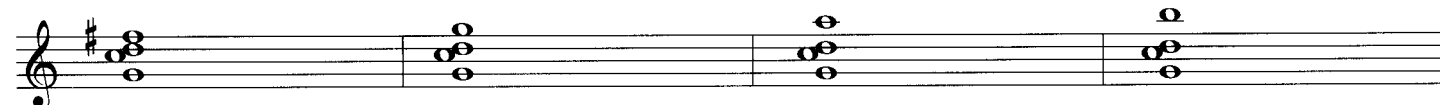
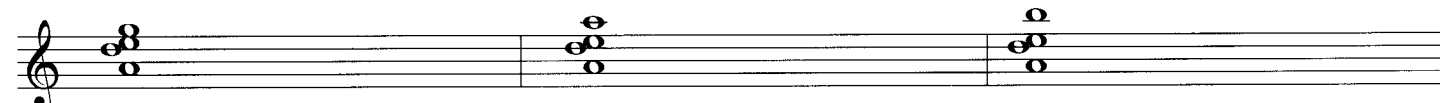
● 3rd + 4th + 2nd● 5th + 2nd● 5th + 2nd + 4th● 6th + 2nd

MAJOR, MINOR & DOMINANT CLUSTER SOUNDS

The following pages feature a number of cluster sounds that can be applied to major (Lydian), minor and dominant harmonies. In four-note clusters top and bottom notes may be omitted, whereas in three-note clusters notes may be added on top or underneath.

A lot of these voicings do not feature a 7th or even a 3rd which makes them very ambiguous and applicable to other modes.

C MAJOR 7TH SOUNDS (LYDIAN)

C_{sus} 9^{#11}C_{sus} 9C_{sus} 9¹³CΔ_{sus} 9C_{sus} 9¹³C_{sus} 9¹³13
CΔ⁹

¹³
CΔ^{#11} CΔ^{#11} CΔ^{9#11}

CΔadd^{#11} CΔ9add^{#11} Cadd^{#11}

Csus⁹¹³ Cadd⁹¹³ Csus⁹¹³^{#11}

¹³
CΔ⁹ CΔ¹³ CΔ^{#11}¹³ CΔ¹³

CΔ^{#11} CΔ^{#11} CΔ^{#11}

D MINOR 7TH SOUNDS

D-9¹³ D-9¹¹ D-11 D-9¹¹

D-add11 D-13 D-9¹³ D-9¹¹

D-add11 D-6 D-9 D-add11

D-7

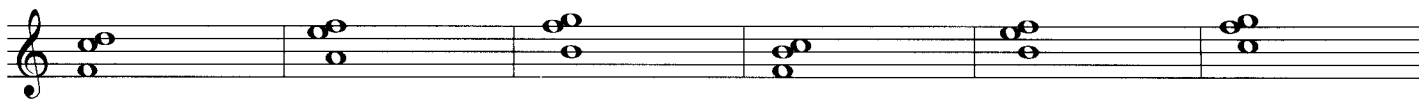
D-add9

D-11¹³

D-13

D-9¹³

D-11



D-9

D-9¹¹

D-add11

D-Δ13

D-Δ9



D MINOR 7TH ♭5 SOUNDS

Dø11

Dø11

Dø9¹¹

Dø11

Dø11



Dø11

Dø11

Dø

Dø9

Dø11



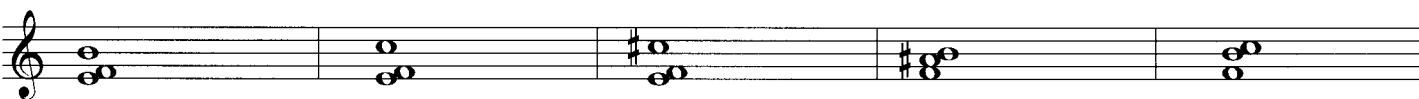
G DOMINANT 7TH SOUNDS

G13

G13sus

G7¹³^{#11}G7^{#9}

G7add11



G13

G7¹³^{♭9}G9¹³

G13

G13sus

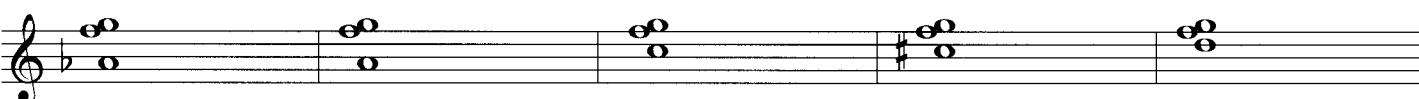
G9¹³^{#11}G7^{♭9}

G9

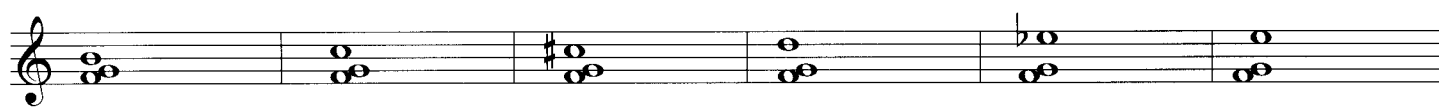
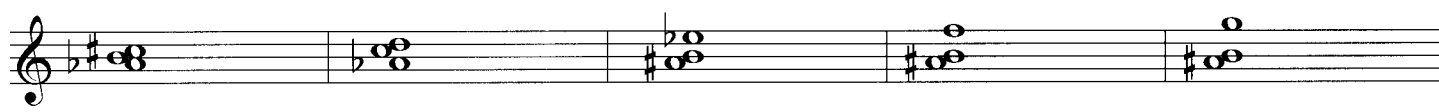
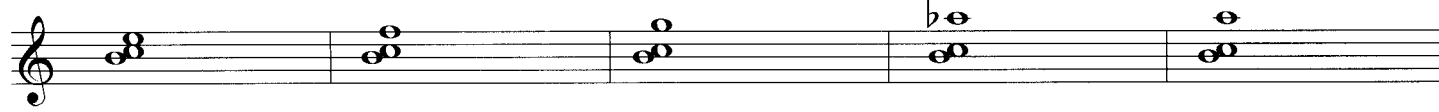
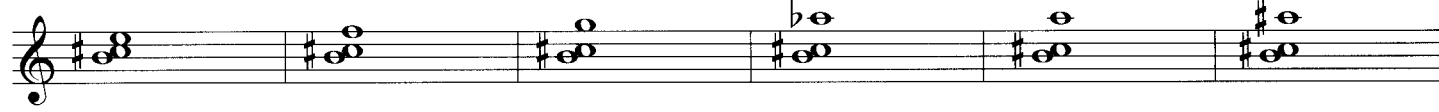
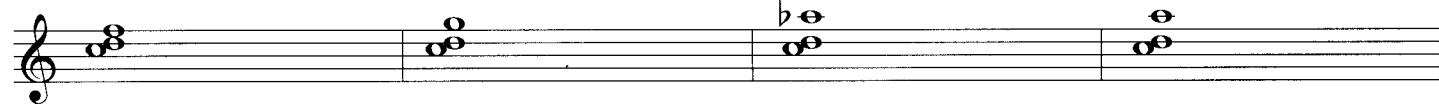
G7sus

G7^{#11}

G7



G DOMINANT 7TH SOUNDS (CTD.)

G7	G7sus	G7 ^{#11}	G7	G7 ^{b13}	G13
					
G7 ^{b9#11}	Gsus ^{b9}	G7 ^{#9b13}	G7 ^{#9}	G7 ^{#9}	
					
G7 ^{b9#9}	G7 ^{b9}	G7 ^{b9}	G7 ^{b9b13}	G7 ^{#9}	
					
G9sus	Gsus ^{b9}	Gadd11	G9sus		
					
Gadd11 ¹³	G7sus	Gsus	Gadd ^{b9} 11	G9sus	
					
G7 ^{#11} 13	G7 ^{#11}	G7 ^{#11}	G7 ^{b9#11}	G9 ^{#11}	G7 ^{#9#11}
					
G7sus	Gsus	G ^{b9} sus	G9sus		
					

Don't forget to transpose these voicings to other keys and check them for more modal applications.

COMPING A STANDARD USING 3-NOTE CLUSTERS

F-9 Bb-9 Eb7#5 #11 AbΔ9 DbΔ9 DbΔ
 Dø11 G7#11 CΔ CΔ¹³ C-9 C-11 F-7 F-11 Bb9¹³ Bb7b9
 EbΔ9#11 EbΔ AbΔ9 Aø11 D7b9#9 GΔ9 GΔ¹³ GΔ#11 GΔ
 A-11 D7b9 GΔ#11 GΔ9¹³ GΔ
 F#ø11 B7#11 EΔ9 EΔ9¹³ C7#5#9 C7b9
 F-11 Bb-11 Eb7b9 Eb7b9#9 AbΔ9 AbΔ
 DbΔ Gb13 Gb7#11 C-9 B°
 Bb-9 Bb-11 Eb7#11¹³ AbΔ9#11 Gø11 C7b9

THE GIFT

This tune combines a lot of the concepts we have discussed so far: clusters, quartal harmony, extended 7th chords.

Peter O'Mara

As played on: Peter O'Mara "Symmetry,"

Edition Collage 484-2, distributed by Sunny

Moon)

The musical score for "THE GIFT" is presented in four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is common time (C). The score includes various chords and fingerings indicated by Roman numerals and chord symbols.

System 1 (Measures 1-4):

- Measure 1: Db sus 9, IV
- Measure 2: Db/Gb
- Measure 3: Ab 11¹³
- Measure 4: A^o

System 2 (Measures 5-9):

- Measure 5: Bb-7
- Measure 6: Eb-7
- Measure 7: Ab 11¹³
- Measure 8: Ab 7 sus 9
- Measure 9: Db sus 9

System 3 (Measures 10-13):

- Measure 10: Db/Gb
- Measure 11: C^o
- Measure 12: F 7¹³ b9
- Measure 13: Bb-add 9

System 4 (Measures 14-18):

- Measure 14: AΔ¹³
- Measure 15: D-9
- Measure 16: C add 9/E
- Measure 17: F-add 9
- Measure 18: Ab/Bb, Bb 7 b9

19

Ebsus 9 Eb/A^b B^b7sus¹³ B^o^b13 C-add9

VI p. IV

24

F-7 B^badd9 G7 alt A^bΔ⁹

III I III

29

A7^{#5} A^b/B^b BΔ¹³ C-11 Eb/D^b D^badd9

IV VI III VI

3x (3rd x: D.C. al Θ)

2

35

E^b/D^b E^b/D D^b/E^b EΔ^{#5} F-11 E^badd9/G A^b-9¹¹ G[#]/A

IV VI VII VIII X VI IV

39

B^b11¹³ D^badd9^{#11} E^badd11

III I I

ALL BLUES

The "tune of the chapter" is by Miles Davis, of course. The quiet floating character of this tune lends itself very much to modal cluster comping.

Miles Davis

(arr. Peter O'Mara)

First system of musical notation (measures 1-6). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 12/8. The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. The first measure of the left hand is marked with a '1' below the staff. The chord G7 (Mixolydian) is indicated above the first measure of the left hand.

Second system of musical notation (measures 7-12). The melody continues in the right hand. The chord C7 (Mixolydian) is indicated above the fourth measure of the left hand.

Third system of musical notation (measures 13-18). The melody continues in the right hand. The chord G7 (Mixolydian) is indicated above the first measure of the left hand. The chord D7#9 is indicated above the sixth measure of the left hand, with a '13' above it. The key signature changes to two sharps (D major) in the final measure.

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 19-24). The melody continues in the right hand. The chords Eb13, D7b9, and G7 (Mixolydian) are indicated above the first, second, and third measures of the left hand, respectively. The system ends with a double bar line.

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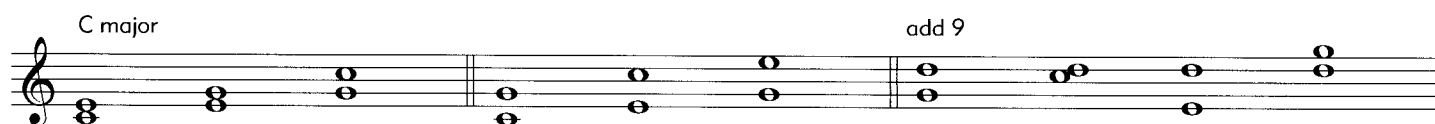
Chapter 7

INTERVALISTIC COMPING

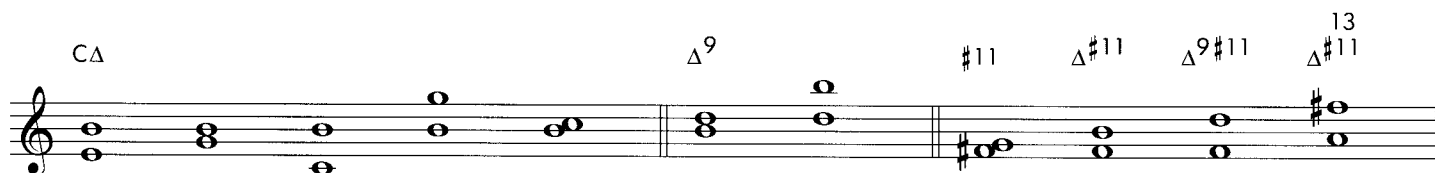
If we look at contemporary jazz guitarists and their comping styles, we see a strong tendency towards note reduction – let’s call it “intervalistic comping.” It’s not only easier to comp with fewer notes, it also helps create “space” in the music. The old saying “too many cooks spoil the broth” could be interpreted musically as “too many notes kill the soloist.” It’s often better to comp with chords using three notes (or less!) than to fill everything up with thick voicings. You may not need to comp at all!

The space that a soloist has to develop melodic ideas is very much dependent on the comping. A lot of soloists even prefer playing *without* chords behind them all the time.

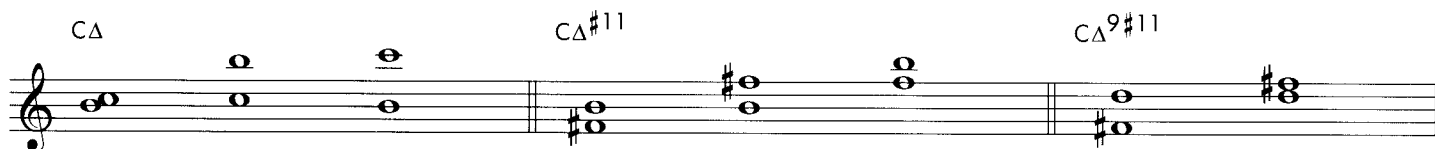
Guitarists like Bill Frisell or John Scofield often use intervals to express a chordal sound. This sort of comping is also popular in rock and country music. For example, to get a “major” sound we can use various intervals:



To get a major 7th sound with extensions we can also try these:



Experiment by changing the order of the intervals used:



Here is an example combining some of these ideas:



Here are some other chordal sounds:

D MINOR SOUNDS

D⁹ add 9 D⁷

D-Δ D-11 D-6

The notation shows six D minor chord variations on a treble clef staff. D⁹ has a natural 9th (F). add 9 has a natural 9th (F) and a sharp 9th (F#). D⁷ has a natural 7th (C). D-Δ has a natural 9th (F) and a sharp 9th (F#). D-11 has a natural 9th (F) and a sharp 9th (F#). D-6 has a natural 6th (B).

D MINOR 7TH b5 SOUNDS

D^ø D^ø9 D^ø11

The notation shows three D minor 7th b5 chord variations on a treble clef staff. D^ø has a natural 7th (C) and a sharp 7th (C#). D^ø9 has a natural 7th (C) and a sharp 7th (C#). D^ø11 has a natural 7th (C) and a sharp 7th (C#).

G7 WITH EXTENSIONS

b⁹ 7^{b9} b⁹ #9 #11 #5(b13) 7 b⁹ #9 7^{b9} 7

11 7^{#11} 7 7^{#5} 13 7 7 13 b⁹13 sus b⁹13 b⁹

The notation shows 12 G7 chord variations on a treble clef staff. The first row contains: b⁹, 7^{b9}, b⁹, #9, #11, #5(b13), 7, b⁹, #9, 7^{b9}, 7. The second row contains: 11, 7^{#11}, 7, 7^{#5}, 13, 7, 7, 13, b⁹13, sus, b⁹13, b⁹.

We can see that there are unlimited possibilities for this kind of comping as long as we know what the “important” notes in a given chord are. To gain this sort of knowledge, it’s important to practice arpeggios, as well as intervallic sequences based on scales. For example, playing the C major scale in thirds gives us that sweet “country” sound:

The notation shows the C major scale in thirds on a treble clef staff, starting with C4 and G4.

A similar effect can be achieved by 6th intervals:

The notation shows the C major scale in 6th intervals on a treble clef staff, starting with C4 and G4.

Applying the same intervals to the dominant-diminished scale produces a completely different sound. For example, E7:

● 3rds: 

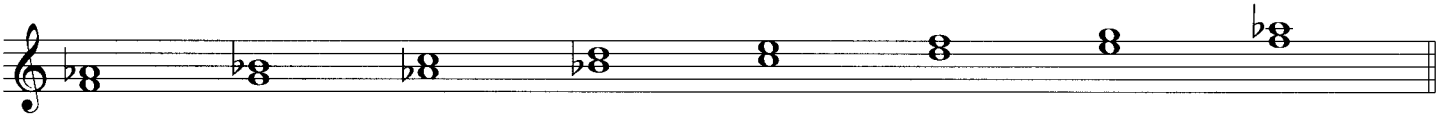


● 6ths: 



Here's the same principle applied to the melodic minor scale. Using F melodic minor, we can get sounds that are useful as F-Δ (I), B $\flat$ 7,9,#11,13 (IV) and E7 altered (VII) just to name a few of the possible uses.

● 3rds: 



● 6ths: 



Here's an example of a standard chord progression using intervallic comping:

Chord progression notation above the staff:

$E\flat\Delta$ $B\flat-9$ $E\flat\Delta^9$ $D\emptyset^{11}$ $G7\sharp^{11}$ $C-9$

$A\flat^{13}$ $C-7$ $C-9^{11}$ $A\emptyset$ $D7\sharp^9$ $Gadd9$ $G\Delta$ $A\flat-7$ $A\flat-9$

$F-7$ $B\flat^{13}$ $C-9$ $C-9/B\flat$ $A\emptyset^9$ $D7\flat^5\flat^{13}$

$G\Delta\sharp^{11}$ $G7sus$ $G7\sharp^{11}$ $G9sus$

$F7^{13}$ $F7\flat^9\sharp^{11}$ $F7sus$ $E\emptyset$ $A7\flat^9$

$E\flat^9\sharp^{11}$ $A-7$ $D7\flat^5\flat^9$ $B-7$ $E7\sharp^{11}$ $D-11$ $C\sharp-7$

$F\sharp^7\flat^9$ $B-7/E$ $A-9/E$ $B-9$ $A-7/E$

$E\flat^7sus$ $E\flat\Delta\sharp^5$ $A\flat\Delta\sharp^5/E\flat$ $D\emptyset$ $G7\sharp^{11}$ $C-9$

OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR CHORD CONSTRUCTION

Note that there is no third in the first row of voicings!

● Fifths

C6⁹ D6⁹ E^b9^b13 F6⁹ G6⁹ A9^b13 B^b5^b9^b13
 VII or III IX V X VI I VIII II X IV XII V or I

● Possible Uses

C6⁹ D-11 D-6⁹ E11 #11 G7sus
 X (e) VIII (e) XII (e) X (e) X (e)

● Sixths

construction:

● Some Possible Uses

Cadd9¹¹ Cadd11¹³ CΔ¹³ CΔ9¹³ CΔ⁹

D-9¹¹ D-9¹¹ D-11¹³ D-9

FΔ⁹#11 FΔ⁹#11 F6[#]11 FΔ[#]11¹³

G7¹³ G13(no 3rd) G9¹³(no 3rd) Gadd9¹¹

"SCALE SKIPPING"

A lot of us are familiar with the voicings within the major scale and the sounds that they can produce in a "modal" setting (Ex. 1). The idea is to follow a particular voicing through the scale (in this case a "root position" voicing) while keeping a steady or "pedal point" bass line.

● Example 1: "Milestones" Vamp

C7sus

It is important to emphasize that any voicing can be taken through all the degrees of the scale to produce a unity of sound-texture which a random change of chord voicing cannot simulate. The advantage of this sort of comping is that the voicings lead to each other, rather than jumping around melodically:

● Example 2: Quartal Voicing (Dorian)

A-7

● Example 3: Cluster Voicing (Lydian)

CΔ^{#11}

We have looked at many possible voicing combinations in the previous chapters, from "four-note 4th chords" to "four-note clusters." Let's see what happens, when we change the source scale from the typical major scale to something like the melodic minor scale:

● Example 4: Root Position (Melodic Minor)

A-Δ

This sort of “scale skipping” is a good option to have, especially when we want to connect chords melodically with each other:

● Example 5

G7alt C-7 (Dorian)

● Example 6

E7alt A-Δ (Melodic Minor)

It can also be reduced to intervals which is a concept we explored in chapter 6:

● Example 7: “Alice in Wonderland”

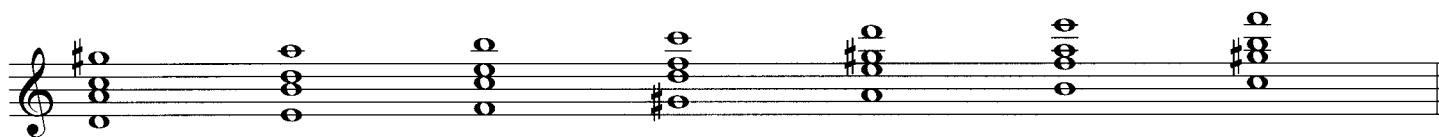
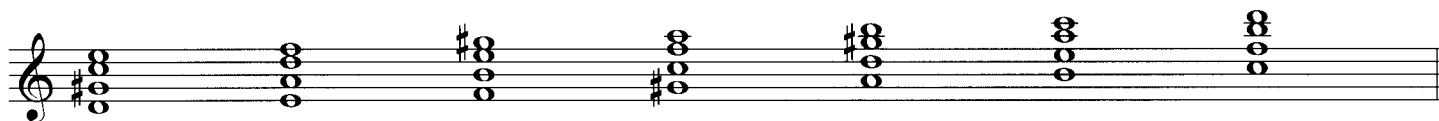
D-7 G7 CΔ FΔ Bø

E7alt A-Δ A7alt D-7 G7^{b9#11}

E-7 A7alt D-7 G7 CΔ

HARMONIC MINOR SCALE VOICINGS

Often we tend to forget that there are also other interesting scales in jazz that can be voiced a number of ways. Here are some examples from A harmonic minor, which includes A-Δ^b13, E7^b9,^b13 and FΔ[#]9,[#]11 as modal colours:



● Fourths



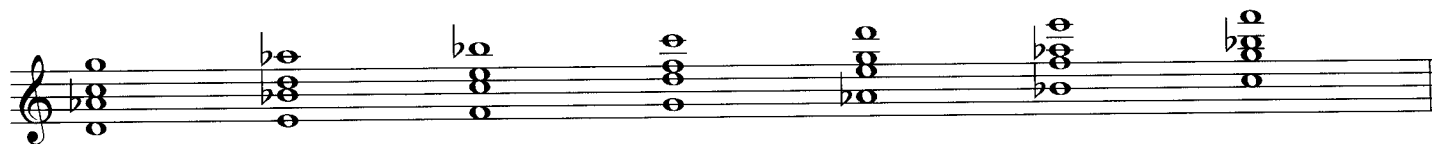
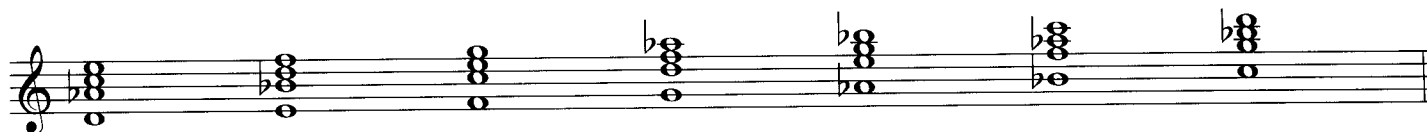
● Cluster



Try these over different bass notes, e.g., A, E or F.

MELODIC MINOR SCALE VOICINGS

Here are some examples within the F melodic minor scale, which includes colours like F-Δ; A $\flat$ Δ $\sharp$ 5 (Lydian augmented); B $\flat$ 9, $\sharp$ 11, 13 (Mixolydian $\sharp$ 11); D $\flat$ 9, 11 (Locrian $\flat$ 2) and E7 $\flat$ 9, $\sharp$ 9, $\sharp$ 11, $\sharp$ 5 (altered):



● Fourths



● Cluster

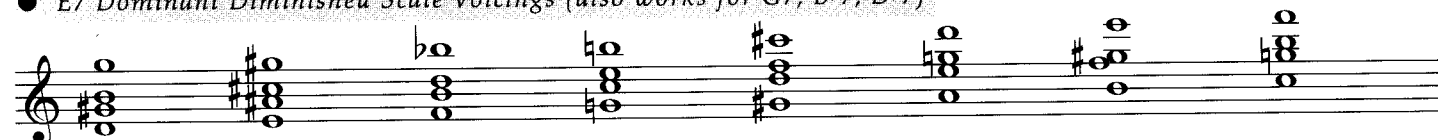


● Cluster



Try these over different bass notes, e.g., F, B $\flat$, D, E $\flat$ and A $\flat$.

● E7 Dominant Diminished Scale Voicings (also works for G7, B $\flat$ 7, D $\flat$ 7)



● Fourths



SECRET LOVE

Sammy Fain/Paul F. Webster
(as played by John Scofield)

This is a John Scofield arrangement of "Secret Love." Note the use of intervals in the "A" section and three-note voicings in the "B" section.

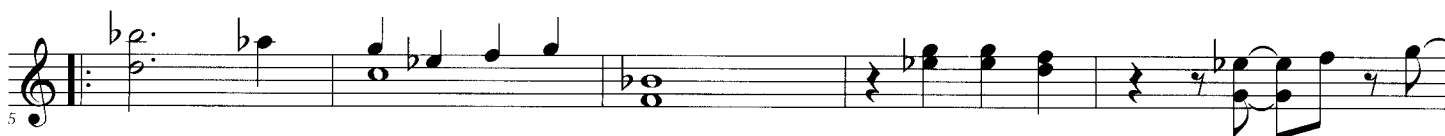
INTRO

E $\flat$ Δ B $\flat$ 7susE $\flat$ Δ B $\flat$ 7sus

A

E $\flat$ Δ

F-9

B $\flat$ 13E $\flat$ Δ B $\flat$ 13E $\flat$ Δ A $\flat$ Δ G $\emptyset$

C7

F-7

B $\flat$ 7

F-7

B $\flat$ 7

F-7

B $\flat$ 7

F-7

B $\flat$ 71.
E $\flat$ Δ 2.
E $\flat$ Δ D $\emptyset$ 11 G7 $\flat$ 9¹³

B

C-7

F7

B $\flat$ Δ 

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B $\flat$ -7 Eb7 A $\flat$ Δ

27

A2

E $\flat$ Δ F-9 B $\flat$ 13 G7#9 $\flat$ 13 C7#9

31

F-7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ Δ F-9 B $\flat$ 13

35

VERY EARLY

Bill Evans

(as played by Bill Frisell)

Bill Frisell's comping of the Bill Evans tune "Very Early" is even more reduced and has a strong contrapuntal element. Note the frequent use of higher extensions at the cost of even omitting the third (if implied in the melody), creating a rather "abstract" atmosphere.

Measures 1-5 of the comping part. The notation is in 3/4 time. The left hand (bass clef) plays chords, and the right hand (treble clef) plays a melodic line. Chords are labeled below the staff: CΔ, Bb7, EbΔ, Ab7b9, and DbΔ.

Measures 6-10 of the comping part. Chords are labeled below the staff: G7, CΔ, Bb7#11, DΔ, and A-7.

Measures 11-16 of the comping part. Chords are labeled below the staff: F#-7, B7b9, E-11, Ab7, DbΔ, and G7.

Measures 17-21 of the comping part. Chords are labeled below the staff: CΔ, Bb7, EbΔ, Ab7b9, and DbΔ.

Measures 22-26 of the comping part. Chords are labeled below the staff: G7, CΔ, Bb7#11, DΔ, and A-7.

27

F#-7 B7^b9 E-11 Ab7 DbΔ

32

G7#5 BΔ Ab13 DbΔ Bb13

37

BΔ G7 CΔ Ab7

41

DbΔ G7 E-7 A7^b9

45

D-7 E-7 FΔ G7 CΔ

STELLA BY STARLIGHT

Victor Young

(as played by John Abercrombie)

This example is taken from the play-along CD and book "I Hear A Rhapsody" (Advance Music 14507CD) and shows how John Abercrombie comps a bass solo on "Stella By Starlight." The frequent use of essential chord tones, like the 3rd and the 7th, creates a solid foundation for the soloist to play over.

Chord symbols and measure numbers from the score:

- Staff 1: B $\flat$ Δ , A-6, G-7, F-7, E $\emptyset$, A7, D $\emptyset$ (Measures 23-27)
- Staff 2: G-7, C $\emptyset$, F7, B $\flat$ Δ , B $\flat$ 6 (Measures 28-32)
- Staff 3: E $\emptyset$ 11, A7, C-7, F7sus, F7, F-7 (Measures 33-37)
- Staff 4: B $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$ Δ , A $\flat$ 7, B $\flat$ Δ , E $\emptyset$, A7 (Measures 38-42)
- Staff 5: D-7, B $\flat$ -7, E $\flat$ 7, F Δ , F6⁹, E-7, A7^{#9}, A $\emptyset$ (Measures 43-47)
- Staff 6: D7^{#9} $\flat$ 13, G7^{#5}^{#9}, C-7, (F7), C-7, (F7) (Measures 48-52)
- Staff 7: A $\flat$ 7^{#11}, G-7, A-6, G-/B $\flat$, F-7, E-7 $\flat$ 13, A7^{#9} (Measures 53-57)

Chapter 8

SLASH CHORDS

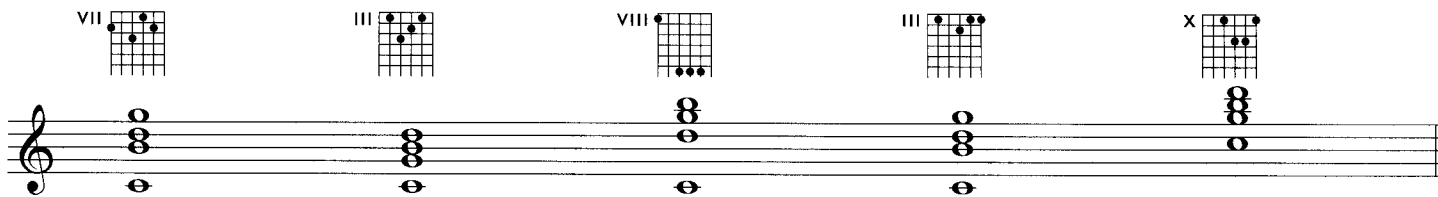
“Slash chords” are named after their notation: a triad and a single root divided by a slash (“/”). They are a convenient way to express polychord-like sounds on the guitar.

Polychords are, literally speaking, two chords superimposed on each other. However, the limited number of notes available for guitar voicings make it necessary for us to be economical. This sort of voice economy is useful in producing new “sounds,” for example:

Polychord: G/C
CΔ⁹ → G/C



Although we’ve left out the third (E), the result is still a “C major 7, 9 (CΔ9)” sound, because our ear fills in the gap between the root and the fifth. That means we can use any G major triad to create a CΔ9:



Here, our knowledge of triad shapes (see chapter 1) comes to fruition! Also, slash chords provide the guitarist with very resonant and “modern” sounds and voicings for the majority of modes, as will be shown on the following pages.

MAJOR TRIADS AS “UPPER STRUCTURE” SLASH CHORDS

One way to learn to understand polychords is to take a triad, let's say “C major” and try every possible bass note under it. We can then analyze the chordal colours produced and establish the suitable scales for them.

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 2^{\text{ND}}$ ($\flat 9^{\text{TH}}$) IN THE BASS

$$C/D\flat = D\flat\Delta^{\sharp 9\flat 11} \quad (\text{no 5th})$$



F Harmonic Minor VI

A $\flat$ Harmonic Major IV

$$= D\flat^{\circ}\Delta$$

D $\flat$ Diminished

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE 2^{ND} (9^{TH}) IN THE BASS

$$C/D = D9^{\flat 11} \quad (\text{no 5th})$$



D Mixolydian



$$= D-9^{\flat 11} \quad (\text{no 5th, no 3rd})$$



D Dorian



MAJOR TRIAD WITH $\flat 3^{\text{RD}}$ ($\sharp 9^{\text{TH}}$) IN THE BASS

$$C/D\sharp = E\flat 7^{\flat 9\sharp 13} \quad (\text{no 7th, no 5th})$$

E $\flat$ Dominant DiminishedA $\flat$ Harmonic Major V

$$= C7^{\sharp 9} \quad (\text{no root, no 7th})$$



C Dominant Diminished



$$= C\Delta^{\sharp 9} \quad (\text{no root, no 7th})$$



E Harmonic Minor

C Hexatonic



MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE 3RD IN THE BASS

Here we have a “first inversion” triad, that is, the third is underneath. There are many possible chord-scales, depending on the *harmonic context*:

C/E = E- $\flat$ 6 (no 5th)

C Ionian (major) C Δ C Lydian C Δ $\sharp^{11}$ C Mixolydian C7

C Lydian $\sharp$ 9 C Δ $\sharp^9\sharp^{11}$ C Mixolydian $\flat$ 6 C7 $\flat^{13}$ C Mixolydian $\sharp^{11}$ C7 $\sharp^{11}$

C Mixolydian $\flat^2\flat^6$ C7 $\flat^9\flat^{13}$ C Dominant Diminished C7 $\flat^9\sharp^9\sharp^{11}$

C Harmonic Major C Δ $\flat^{13}$ C Hexatonic

F Harmonic Minor V F Harmonic Major V A $\flat$ Harmonic Major III

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE 4TH IN THE BASS

C/F = F Δ 9 (no 3rd)

F Ionian (major) F Lydian F Harmonic Major

= F- Δ 9 (no 3rd)

F Melodic Minor F Harmonic Minor C Harmonic Major IV

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 5^{\text{TH}}$ ($\sharp 11^{\text{TH}}$) IN THE BASS

$C/F\sharp = F\sharp 7^{\flat 9 \sharp 11}$ (no 3rd)

$= C\Delta^{\sharp 11}$ (no 7th)

$F\sharp$ Dominant Diminished $F\sharp$ Altered

C Lydian E Harmonic Minor VI

The musical notation shows the C/F# slash chord in two ways: as F#7(b9 #11) with notes F#, C, E, G, Bb, D# and as CΔ#11 with notes C, E, G, A, B. To the right, two scale lines are shown: F# Dominant Diminished (F#, G, A, Bb, C, D, E, F#) and F# Altered (F#, G, A, Bb, C, D, Eb, F#). Below these, C Lydian (C, D, E, F#, G, A, B) and E Harmonic Minor VI (E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E) are shown.

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE 5TH IN THE BASS

Here, just as with “C/E” we have an inversion of the triad, this time the second inversion with the fifth underneath. The possible chord-scales are the same as with “C/E.”

$C/G = G6sus$ (no 3rd)

The musical notation shows the C/G slash chord with notes C, G, C, G, C, G.

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 6^{\text{TH}}$ ($\sharp 5^{\text{TH}}$) IN THE BASS

$C/A\flat = A\flat \Delta^{\sharp 5}$

$A\flat$ Lydian Augmented (F Melodic Minor III) $A\flat$ Major #5 (F Harmonic Minor III)

$A\flat$ Harmonic Major $A\flat$ Hexatonic

The musical notation shows the C/Ab slash chord with notes C, Ab, C, Ab, C, Ab. To the right, four scale lines are shown: A-flat Lydian Augmented (A-flat, B-flat, C, D, E, F, G, A-flat), A-flat Major #5 (A-flat, B-flat, C, D, E, F, G, A-flat), A-flat Harmonic Major (A-flat, B-flat, C, D, E, F, G, A-flat), and A-flat Hexatonic (A-flat, B-flat, C, D, E, F, G, A-flat).

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE 6TH IN THE BASS

C/A = A-7

A Dorian A Aeolian A Phrygian

E Harmonic Minor IV (Dorian #4) G Melodic Minor II (Dorian b2)

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE b7TH IN THE BASS

C/Bb = Bb9¹³#11 (no 3rd, no 5th) C7

This chord is not as easy to define, because it has no 3rd or 7th. Therefore, it could be a major 7th (Δ), minor-major 7th ($-\Delta$), dominant 7th (7) or a minor 7th (-7) chord. Naturally, there are common uses, like saying it's just an inversion of "C7 Mixolydian" and therefore making it a "Bb Δ Lydian" sound – both share the same signature: one flat (F major). But a close look at the scale possibilities reveals a lot more:

Bb Lydian Bb Lydian Augmented Bb Mixolydian #4

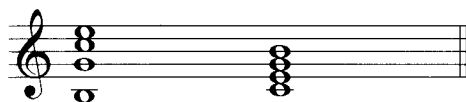
Bb-7 13 9#11 F Harmonic Minor IV

Bb- Δ 13 9#11 F Harmonic Major IV

Bb $\emptyset$ 13 9#11 Ab Harmonic Major II

MAJOR TRIAD WITH THE 7TH IN THE BASS

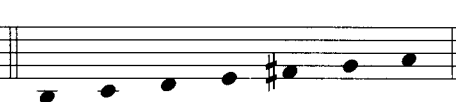
C/B = CΔ



B Locrian



B Phrygian



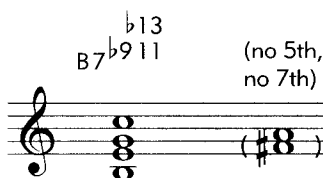
C Hexatonic



C Harmonic Major VII



This polychord type can also be seen as a “dominant 7th sus (11), $\flat 9$, $\flat 13$ ”:



E Harmonic Minor V



Some of these scales we have just seen may seem strange to the ear. Just remember: “Rome wasn’t built in a day.” What we “hear” is a result of what we have “heard,” so let’s keep our ears open!

MAJOR AUGMENTED TRIADS AS “UPPER STRUCTURE” SLASH CHORDS

MAJOR AUGMENTED TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 2^{\text{ND}}$ ($\flat 9^{\text{TH}}$) IN THE BASS

Caug/D $\flat$

D $\flat$ -Δ



D $\flat$ Melodic Minor



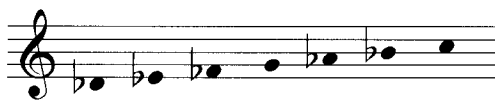
D $\flat$ Harmonic Minor



F Harmonic Minor VI



A $\flat$ Harmonic Major IV



D $\flat$ Hexatonic



MAJOR AUGMENTED TRIAD WITH THE 2ND (9TH) IN THE BASS

Caug/D = D9^{#11} (no 3rd, no 5th)

D Mixolydian ^{#11}

= Dø9 (no 3rd)

D Locrian ^{b2} A Harmonic Minor IV C Harmonic Major II

MAJOR AUGMENTED TRIAD WITH THE ^{b3}RD (#9TH) IN THE BASS

Caug/D[#] = EΔ^{#5}

C[#] Melodic Minor II C[#] Harmonic Minor II

E Harmonic Major VII E Hexatonic

MAJOR AUGMENTED TRIAD WITH THE 3RD IN THE BASS

Because of the symmetry of the major augmented triad, the third or the ^{#5}th in the bass only represent inversions of the same triad. The same follows for all other remaining bass notes:

Caug/ Caug/ Caug/

^{b2} 4 6 ^{b2} ^{#11} ^{b7} ^{#9} 5 ^{b7}

identical! identical! identical!

MINOR TRIADS AS "UPPER-STRUCTURE" SLASH CHORDS

We have tried all the possible bass notes under major triads – now let's do the same for minor triads.

MINOR TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 2^{\text{ND}}$ ($\flat 9^{\text{TH}}$) IN THE BASS

$D-/E\flat = E\flat\Delta^{9\#11}$ (no 3rd, no 5th)

$E\flat$ Lydian $E\flat$ Lydian Augmented

Although the most common use of this polychord is as a Lydian (or Lydian augmented) sound, it does also have a use as an extended diminished chord:

$= E\flat\Delta^9$ (no 3rd, no 6th)

$E\flat$ Diminished

MINOR TRIAD WITH THE 2^{ND} (9^{TH}) IN THE BASS

$D-/E = E-7^{\flat 9}$ (no 3rd, no 5th)

E Phrygian E Locrian

D Melodic Minor II D Harmonic Minor II

As a "dominant 7th sus (11) $\flat 9$ " chord there are more possibilities:

$= E7^{\flat 9}_{11}$ (no 5th)

A Harmonic Minor V A Harmonic Major V

MINOR TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 3^{\text{RD}}$ IN THE BASS

Because this triad is a “first inversion” triad, we could theoretically use any scale that fits to a D minor triad. Again, the musical context will usually determine which scale is correct, but here are a few to try:

D-/F = F6 (no 5th)

F Ionian (major) F Lydian F Mixolydian

F Lydian Augmented D Harmonic Minor III A Harmonic Minor VI

A Harmonic Major VI C Melodic Minor V D Hexatonic III

MINOR TRIAD WITH THE $\sharp 3^{\text{RD}}$ IN THE BASS

D-/G $\flat$ = G $\flat$ - $\Delta\flat 13$

G $\flat$ Harmonic Minor G $\flat$ Hexatonic

= G $\flat$ $\circ\flat 13$

G $\flat$ Diminished

= D7 $\sharp 9$ (no 7th)

D Dominant Diminished

MINOR TRIAD WITH THE 4^{TH} IN THE BASS

D-/G = G9 (no 3rd)

G Mixolydian G Mixolydian $\sharp 11$ C Melodic Minor

MINOR TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 5^{\text{TH}}$ ($\sharp 11^{\text{TH}}$) IN THE BASS

$$D-/A\flat = A\flat^{\flat 9} \text{ (no } \flat 3^{\text{rd}})$$



$$= A\flat 7^{\flat 9 \sharp 11} \text{ (no } 3^{\text{rd}}, \text{ no } 7^{\text{th}})$$



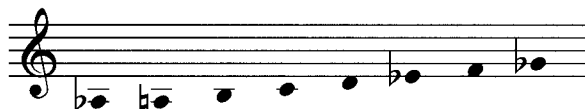
A Harmonic Minor VII



A Harmonic Major VII



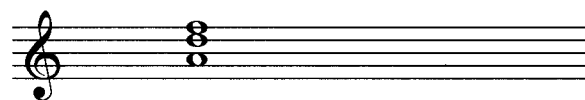
A♭ Dominant Diminished



MINOR TRIAD WITH THE 5^{TH} IN THE BASS

This is another inverted triad, so we can use any scale that contains a D minor triad.

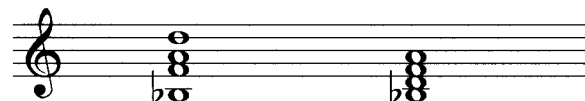
D-/A



MINOR TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 6^{\text{TH}}$ IN THE BASS

Here we can use any scale that fits a "B♭Δ" chord (see "Major Triad With The 3^{rd} In The Bass").

$$D-/B\flat = B\flat\Delta$$



MINOR TRIAD WITH THE 6^{TH} IN THE BASS

$$D-/B = B\emptyset$$



B Locrian



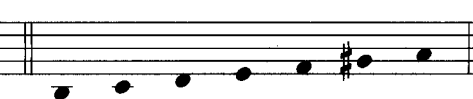
B Locrian $\sharp 2$



A Harmonic Major II



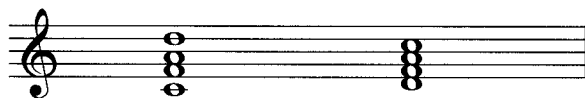
A Harmonic Minor II



MINOR TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 7^{\text{TH}}$ IN THE BASS

This is an inversion of D-7. Therefore, our scale possibilities are any scale that contains a minor 7th chord (see “Major Triad With The 6th In The Bass”).

$$D-/C = D-7$$



MINOR TRIAD WITH THE $\sharp 7^{\text{TH}}$ IN THE BASS

$$D-/C\sharp = D-\Delta$$

D Melodic Minor

D Harmonic Minor

D Hexatonic



$$= C\sharp 7\sharp 5\flat 9$$

(no 7th)



C# Altered

A Harmonic Major III



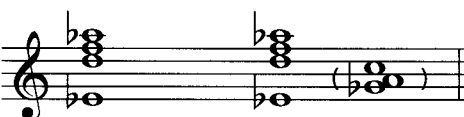
DIMINISHED TRIADS AS “UPPER STRUCTURE” SLASH CHORDS

DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 2^{\text{ND}}$ ($\flat 9^{\text{TH}}$) IN THE BASS

We might be wondering about the musical value of chords like this!

$$D^{\circ}/E\flat = E\flat^{\circ}\Delta^{11}_9$$

E $\flat$ Diminished

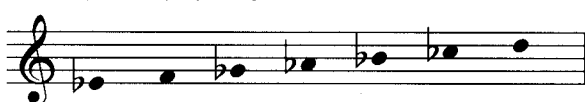


$$= E\flat^{\circ}\Delta^{11}_9$$

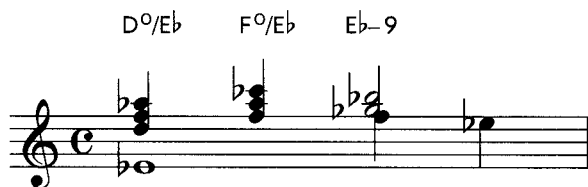
(no 5th,
no 3rd)



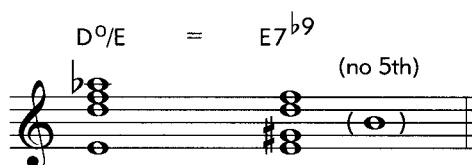
E $\flat$ Harmonic Minor



Here's one example of their usage:



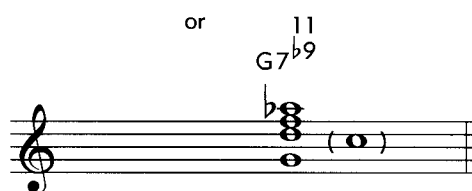
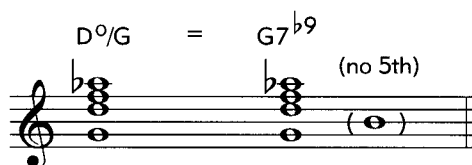
DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE 2ND (9TH) IN THE BASS



DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE $\flat$ 3RD IN THE BASS

This is, as we know, identical to a first inversion triad.

DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE 4TH IN THE BASS



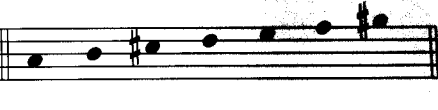
DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE $\flat$ 5TH IN THE BASS

Another “clear case”: a second inversion triad.

DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE 5TH IN THE BASS

$D^{\circ}/A = A\Delta^{11\flat 13}$





$A\Delta^{11\flat 13}$




$A\Delta^{11\flat 13}$




$D^{\circ}/B\flat = B\flat 7$



This is really no big deal, but let's just file this knowledge away for the sake of it!

DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE 6TH IN THE BASS

$D^{\circ}/B = B^{\circ}7$



See chapters 2, 3, and 4 for a discussion of diminished 7th chords.

DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE $\flat 7^{\text{TH}}$ IN THE BASS

$D^{\circ}/C = F-6$



F Melodic Minor V

C Harmonic Minor



C Aeolian

C Harmonic Major



$C^{\circ}9^{11}$

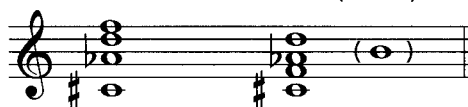


C Diminished



DIMINISHED TRIAD WITH THE $\sharp 7^{\text{TH}}$ IN THE BASS

$D^{\circ}/C\sharp = C\sharp 7^{\flat 9}$
(no 7th)



$C\sharp$ Dominant Diminished

$F\sharp$ Harmonic Minor V

$F\sharp$ Harmonic Major V



COMBINATION EXERCISES

Combining several slash chords can produce interesting results:

▲ Major Polychord Sounds

G/C (= CΔ⁹) D/C (= C6⁹#11) F/C (= C6sus) E/C (= CΔ^{#5})



▲ Minor Polychord Sounds

F/D (= D-7) Eb/D (= D-Phrygian) Db/D (= D-Δ^{b5}) Bb/D (= D-7^{#5}) C/D (= D-9¹¹)



▲ Dominant 7th Polychord Sounds

F/G (= G9¹¹) Db/G (= G7^{b9}#11) Eb/G (= G7^{#9}b13) E/G (= G7^{b9}¹³)



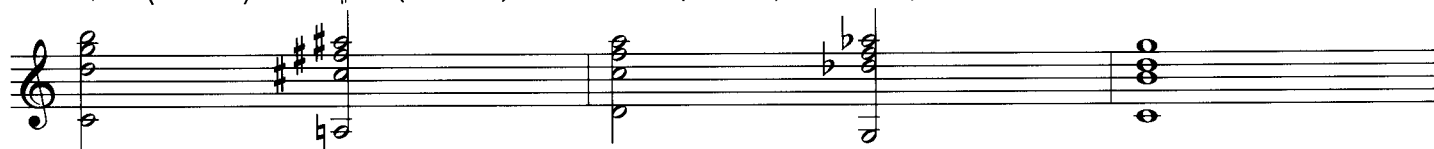
▲ Intro Using Pedal-Point Vamp

G/C F/C E/C Db/C



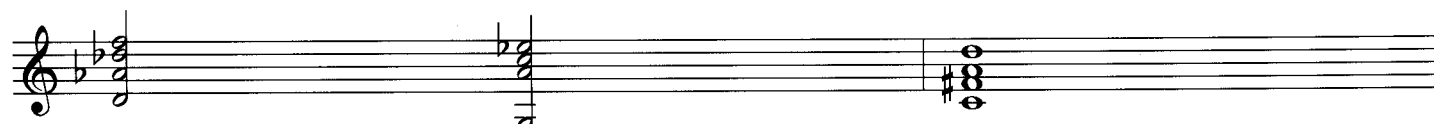
▲ Cadence Using Pedal-Point Vamp

G/C (= CΔ⁹) F#/A (= A7^{b9}¹³) F/D (= D-7) Db/G (= G7^{b9}#11) G/C (= CΔ⁹)

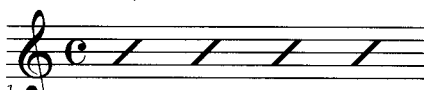
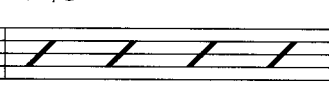
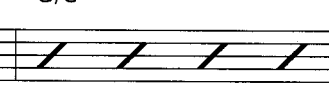
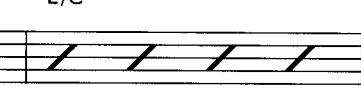
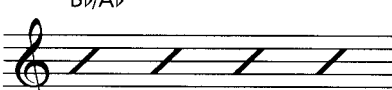
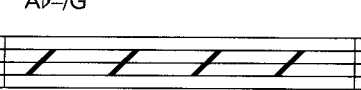
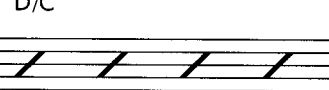
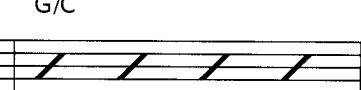
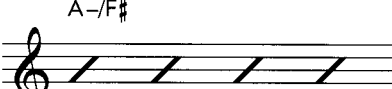
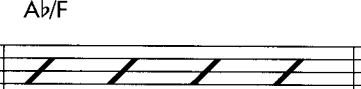
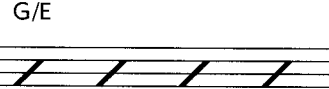
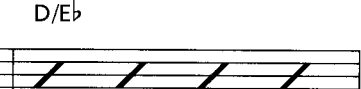
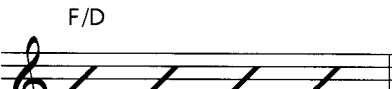
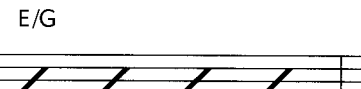
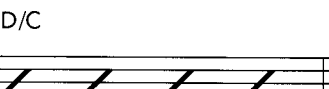
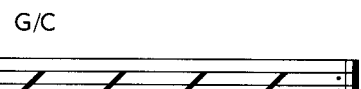
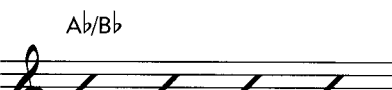


▲ II-V-I Cadence Using Pedal-Point Vamp

Db/D (= D-Δ^{b5}) Ab/G (= G7sus^{b9}) D/C (= C6⁹#11)



Here are some examples of slash chord usage on a standard chord progression. The original progression is notated underneath the system, the slash chords are written above. Try some variations starting from different positions on the guitar!

1				
	E♭/A♭	F-/G	G/C	E/C
	A♭Δ	G7	CΔ	CΔ
5				
	B♭/A♭	A♭-/G	D/C	G/C
	A♭Δ	G7	CΔ	CΔ
9				
	A-/F♯	A♭/F	G/E	D/E♭
	F♯ø	F-7	E-7	E♭°
13				
	F/D	E/G	D/C	G/C
	D-7	G7	CΔ	CΔ
17				
	A♭/B♭	A♭-/B♭	D♭/C	E-/C
	B♭7sus	B♭7sus	CΔ	CΔ
21				
	B/B♭	E/B♭	D/C	G/C
	B♭7sus	B♭7	CΔ	CΔ
25				
	E/F♯	E♭/F	D/E	B-/E♭
	F♯ø	F-7	E-7	E♭°
29				
	C/D	E♭/G	B/C	G/C
	D-7	G7	CΔ	CΔ

COSTA DEL SOL

Peter O'Mara

(as played on Peter O'Mara's "Avenue U." ENJA 6046, ENJA-TUTU)

Here's one of my own tunes for you to have more fun with slash chords. Again, the "scale-chords" behind the slash chords are written underneath.

1 C/F E/A D-11 D/Bb
FΔ⁹ A-Δ⁹ BbΔ^{#5}

5 G-9 Bb-/C Bb/F G/F
C7sus^{b9} F6sus FΔ^{9#11}

9 F/A F/Bb Bb/C A/C#
A7alt BbΔ⁹ C-11 C#-7^{b13}

13 D/E G/A D/G B-9¹³
E9sus A9sus GΔ⁹

17 D/C Eb/Ab Bb/Eb F/Eb
CΔ^{#11} AbΔ⁹ EbΔ⁹ EbΔ^{9#11}

21 Bb/Eb F/Eb

LAKES

Pat Metheny

(from Pat Metheny's "Watercolors" album)

A lot of Pat Metheny's tunes use slash chord harmony. Here's one for you to try. Note how the eight-bar melody is totally redefined harmonically three times.

First system of musical notation (measures 1-4). The treble clef staff contains a melody of eighth notes. The bass clef staff contains a series of slash chords: D, A/D, G/D, and A/D. Measure numbers 1, 3, and 5 are indicated below the bass staff.

Second system of musical notation (measures 5-8). The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff contains slash chords: Dadd9, Aadd9/C#, D/B D/A, Eadd9/G#, G/A, Dsus, and F#7b13. Measure numbers 5 and 7 are indicated below the bass staff.

Third system of musical notation (measures 9-12). The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff contains slash chords: B-11, E-7, G/A, A/G, Dadd9/F#, E-911, G/A, and BbΔ#11/A. Measure numbers 9 and 11 are indicated below the bass staff.

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 13-16). The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff contains slash chords: A, A/Bb, B-7, D/C, A/C#, C/D, D/G, and F#/G#. Measure numbers 13 and 15 are indicated below the bass staff.

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17 C#-7 C9 B-7 C/D D/G Dadd9/F# F#11

21 E-11 F#-7 F#/G E add9/G# Eb/A

24 D/Bb C/B Bb/C A add9/C# C/D D/Eb

27 E-7 F#13 D/F# G G/A D

OMAHA CELEBRATION

Pat Metheny

More Metheny – in a similar vein!

EA B7 sus B/C# C/D C/D

Gadd9/B D/C# Bb/C Bb/C C/D A/B B/C#

E7 AΔ C/D Gadd9 F/Gb B7b13

F7sus Gb/Ab Ab/Db A/B B/E A/B B/C# C/D

C/D Gadd9 Bb/C FΔ F/Bb Gb/Ab Ab/Db A/B

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B/E C/D B/D E-9¹¹ A13

20 VII VIII VII V

F[#]/G[#] A^b/D^b A/B B/E C/D D/G G7sus

24 II IV V VII VIII X VIII

G7 G/C E^b/F E-11 E^b7 add11

28 VII VIII VII VI

A^bΔ C^b/D^b G^bΔ A/B E add9 D/E^b A^b7^b13

32 IV II I V IV

F[#]/G E^bΔ¹³ D^b B/C F7^b13

36 II IV II I

B^b- F7/A G^b/A^b A^b/D^b A/B

40 I III II IV V

APPENDIX

EXPRESSIONS*Peter O'Mara*

The two tunes that conclude this book feature a lot of the chordal concepts we have discussed as they appear in "real life." They are just here for you to enjoy and to get a feel for the sounds introduced in the previous chapters in a musical context.

The musical score for Peter O'Mara's "Expressions" is presented in 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of piano accompaniment and one system of melody. The piano part is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs), and the melody is written in a single treble clef staff. The score includes measures 1 through 20, with some measures containing multiple chords or complex voicings.

System 1 (Measures 1-4):

- Measure 1: D-9¹¹ (III)
- Measure 2: D-add9^{b13} (V)
- Measure 3: D-add9^{b13}
- Measure 4: D-add9^{b13}

System 2 (Measures 5-8):

- Measure 5: D-9¹¹ (III)
- Measure 6: D-add9^{b13} (V)
- Measure 7: D-add9^{b13}
- Measure 8: C/B^b (V^bσ.)

System 3 (Measures 9-14):

- Measure 9: G-11
- Measure 10: FΔ^{#5}
- Measure 11: D^b/E^b (VI)
- Measure 12: D-9¹¹ (III)
- Measure 13: D-add9^{b13} (V)
- Measure 14: D-add9^{b13}

System 4 (Measures 15-18):

- Measure 15: C/B^b (V^bσ.)
- Measure 16: D/G (II)
- Measure 17: B-9¹¹ (I)
- Measure 18: B-9¹¹ (II)

System 5 (Measures 19-20):

- Measure 19: B-add9^{b13}
- Measure 20: B-add9^{b13}

B

25 $D\flat\Delta\#5\#11$ $C-13$ $B\emptyset$ $B\flat/C$ $E\flat\Delta/F$

30 $B\flat\Delta\#5/E$ $D\Delta/F$ $B\flat/C$ $D\flat\Delta\#11$ $E\flat\Delta\#11$ $A7\#9$

C

34 $D-11$ $D-add9\flat13$ $D-9^{11}$ $D-add9\flat13$

D

40 $A-9^{11}$ $F-9^{11}$ $G-9^{11}$ $E\flat-9^{11}$

44 $D-9^{11}$ $D-add9\flat13$

THREE

Peter O'Mara

(As played on Peter O'Mara's "Avenue U."
ENJA 6046, ENJA-TUTU)

First system of musical notation (measures 1-4). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes a treble clef and a bass clef. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: F-7^b13, Ebsus 9, D-7^b13, and Csus 9. Fingering numbers (VIII, VI, V, III) are indicated below the bass staff.

Second system of musical notation (measures 5-8). The notation includes a treble clef and a bass clef. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Gsus 9, A-add9, and Csus 9. Fingering numbers (I, I, III) are indicated below the bass staff.

Third system of musical notation (measures 9-12). The notation includes a treble clef and a bass clef. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: C#^o, EbΔ#5, and E-9¹¹. Fingering numbers (II, IV, V) are indicated below the bass staff. A first ending bracket is shown over measures 9-10.

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 13-16). The notation includes a treble clef and a bass clef. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: C#^o, EbΔ#11, and Eb-7^b13. Fingering numbers (II, IV, VI) are indicated below the bass staff. A second ending bracket is shown over measures 13-14.

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18 $Dbsus\ 9$ $C-7^b13$

22 $Bbsus\ 9$ $Db\Delta/Ab$ $G7^{13}b9$

27 $Gb\Delta\#11$ $A\Delta\#5$ $Bb-11$ $C-7^b13$

32 $Dbsus\ 9$ $Bb-11$

D.C.

IN CLOSING

Now that we've reached the "end," I've realized that there is still so much which has not been covered in this book. Basically, I wanted to present an analysis of how chords are structured on the guitar fingerboard. Their uses are limited only by your imagination. Listen to all sorts of music to develop your ideas, and when you learn a new chord shape, try to integrate it into tunes you already know. Better still, try to compose a tune around the chordal type you've been working on. That way, it will stick in your memory.

And most important: be patient!

The guitar is a versatile but difficult instrument that deserves your dedication.

Peter O'Mara



© Jutta Schug

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Australian guitarist Peter O'Mara moved to Munich, Germany in 1981. Since then, he has established himself as a performer and teacher. He presently teaches jazz guitar at the Anton Bruckner Konservatorium in Linz, Austria, as well as the Richard Strauss Konservatorium in Munich. He also lectures at jazz workshops throughout Germany.

His performing credits include Klaus Doldinger's "Passport," Kenny Wheeler, David Friedman, Mike Nock, Randy Brecker, Albert Mangelsdorff, Adelhard Roidinger, Uli Beckerhoff, Charlie Mariano, Tony Lakatos, and Terri Lyne Carrington.

He has a number of CDs under his own name, including "Avenue U" (ENJA 6046, featuring Joe Lovano, Dave Holland, Adam Nussbaum, and Roberto di Gioia), "Stairway" (ENJA 7077, featuring Tony Lakatos, Russell Ferrante, Anthony Jackson, Alex Acuna, and Tom Brechtlein), and "Symmetry" (Edition Collage 484-2, featuring Bob Mintzer, Marc Johnson, and Falk Willis).

A CHORDAL CONCEPT FOR
JAZZ GUITAR

provides the progressive guitarist with a comprehensive overview of chordal structures on the guitar fingerboard. ■ Starting with triads, then working through 7th and 9th chords and further extensions, chord substitution relationships and practical examples over standard chord progressions, the author presents here a chordal concept based on logic rather than just memorized shapes.

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