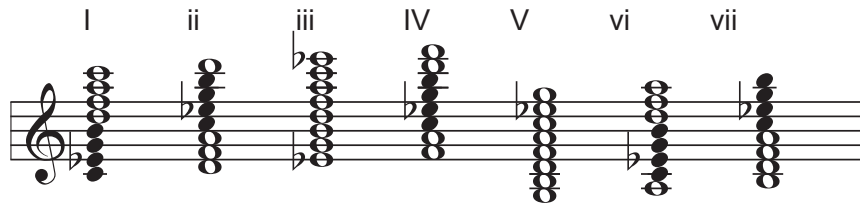


(Book 5) Lesson 18a

Tower of Thirds Re: Minor-Major Seventh Chords

Notes C - Eb - G - B related to the tower of thirds in the key of "C" Major.



It may be a good idea to practice this series of interchangeable chords in conjunction with the previously explored "Major 7th chords."

The "Minor-Major 7th chord only exists in a musica-ficta type of scale. (CmMaj7 would be the "Tonic 7th" chord in the Key of C minor in either the harmonic or melodic mode)

Here we will observe the Minor-Major 7th chord towers as belonging to the key of C but with an altered third.

①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
Min-maj7	13		#11		9	Root
5	sus4		9		b7	#5
3	b9		b7		b5	b9
1	b7		5		b3	omit 7
	omit 3		omit 3		omit R	omit 5
	omit 5		omit R			omit 3
	omit R					omit R
Cm(maj7)	D13(sus4,b9)		F9(#11)		A m9(b5)	B7(#5,b9)

Hum the bass notes or have a bass player perform that function.

Notice that towers 3 and 5 do not contain the "C-Eb-G-B" in order.

Like the related Major 7th chords, the Min-Maj 7th chords are rather dissonant and some inversions may be nearly intolerable to your ear.

Chart of Falling diatonic Thirds

For practice, choose random Min-Maj 7th chords and go through the above drill. Notice that the falling thirds are the same as for the Major 6th interchangeable chords, and only the symbol names change. Don't suspect a "tin ear" if you have difficulty in hearing some of these chords. Unless exposed to them, many musicians would have trouble hearing or identifying them. You may have a hard time finding a place for these chords in your camp-fire sing-along but they can be put to good use in more sophisticated arrangements.