

(Book 5) Lesson 20f.

Dominant 7th chords with Altered Roots (the 9th chord series)

The image displays four chords: D7, D7b9, D9, and D7#9. Each chord is presented in four different positions: Root Position, First Inversion, Second Inversion, and Third Inversion. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1 through 4 above or below the notes on the staff.

When the Root of the Dominant 7th chord is moved up one half tone, it actually creates a Diminished seventh chord.(F#-A-C-Eb) Since all inversions of the Diminished 7th chord have the same notes, it seems that F#dim7, Adim7, Cdim7 and Ebdim7 may all be used in place of the D7b9 chord.

In fact, if any note in a Diminished 7th chord is lowered by one half tone, that note may be considered as the Root Representative of that Diminished 7th chord.

The image shows a sequence of chords on a single staff: F#dim7, D7 (with 'Root' written above the D note), F#dim7, B7 (with 'Root' written above the B note), F#dim7, Ab7 (with 'Root' written above the Ab note), F#dim7, and F7 (with 'Root' written above the F note).

When the Root of the Dominant 7th chord is moved up two half tones, it creates two other possible spellings. F#-A-C-E (F#m7b5) and A-C-E-F# (Am6) It seems then that F#m7b5 or Am6 may indeed replace a D9 chord.

Tabulate in this fashion: Minor 7b5 chord built on the 3rd of the Dominant 7th chord
 or: Minor 6th chord built on the 5th of the Dominant 7th chord -----may replace the Dominant 7th or ninth chord.

When the Root of the Dom7 chord is raised three half tones, it creates a Dom7#9 chord. This chord can produce a tremendous dissonance and especially so if the #9 degree is placed in such a position as to be below the third of the chord. Notice that the #9th is in effect a semitone below the 3rd. For all practical purposes, the chord has the sound of a Dominant 7th and a minor 7th chord using the same root. This chord, can be used effectively, but injecting it into a "pretty" harmony may not be an option.

Work out the same chart for "bass note on A" and "bass note on E."

Writing them would be a good idea.