

Half Tone Progressions

The half tone progression is particularly handy when a melody note is moving a semitone but the given chord is not changing. This device is generally best suited to notes of shorter time value. The accompaniment chord, although it will disagree with the half tone progression for a brief moment, can remain static.

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with a Stationary Chordal tone:

Here the melody note remains stationary but the chord moves up a semi-tone from below the suggested harmony. In this example, the result does suggest an Fdim moving to F major.

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with a Stationary Non-chordal tone:

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Too many of these "slippy-slidy" ideas might quickly endanger an arrangement. The examples above all use a quarter note rhythm and that may already be rhythmically an overly long a sustain over the original accompaniment chord. If the tempo is slow, these types of ideas will undoubtedly produce a clash. One solution on a slower tune is to have the accompaniment simply playing a root bass note with no chord.