

Interchangeable 4 Part Guitar Chords

The process is not really that much different than using substitute triads. In this case we are extracting a 4 note chord from the top of the 9th or 11th chord formula. Nothing is totally imperative in music but in order to hear the interchangeable chords as indicated, the appropriate bass note should be a part of the aural experience. If the bass note is not sounded, the chords will simply sound like what they are in their normal form. ie: An Em7 chord is simply that until you supply a "C" bass note and it now becomes Cmaj9.

Cmaj9(Em7)

"C" bass note-----

All of these chords will enjoy greater success when played in a slightly higher pitch setting.

C9 (Em7b5)

"C" bass note-----

The fingering solutions are left to the player and as mentioned at the beginning of Lesson 11a, it would be a good idea for the uninitiated player to study Book 5 of Guitar Fundamentals for an in depth look at these chords.

C7b9(Edim7)

"C" bass note-----

Maj9 chords can be readily substituted for most major and Maj7 chords.

9th and b9th chords can usually be substituted for any Dominant 7th chord.

C11 (Gm7)

"C" bass note-----

11th chords can be substituted for sus4 chords. (In fact this is not a substitution in any great way but mostly a traded name.)

The "Tritone Substitute" re-examined.

C7b5b9 (Gb7)

"C" bass note-----

Readers should notice that the 9th chord interchangeable chords are not really any different than what transpired through the process of replacing the Root of the 7th chord with the 9th degree in some form.

Notice that the note "E" (3rd of C7) becomes the note "Fb" which in turn is the flatted 7th of Gb7.

The use of the tritone substitute is not quite so arbitrary. It is probably better to indicate this type of chord substitution to your partners because a "flat 5" can produce some startling harmonic clashes. Players who have gotten used to the ways of their partners might be able to anticipate this kind of harmonic move with no rehearsal necessary.