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Six Chords

Introduction

Six chords are constructed by adding the sixth note of the major scale to the major and minor triads. Play **Example 17** and notice how the addition of one note adds an extra texture or color to the triad.

Example 17

Notice the difference? The six is only added to the major and minor triads, not the augmented or diminished triads.

Major Six Chord

A major six chord consists of the 1-3-5-6 notes of the major scale. It is notated as A^{b6}.

- **Goal:** Memorize the major six chords.
- **Lesson:** Using Example 18 below, identify where the six is added to the major triads and memorize them as such. The first two are already marked for you.

Major Six Chords

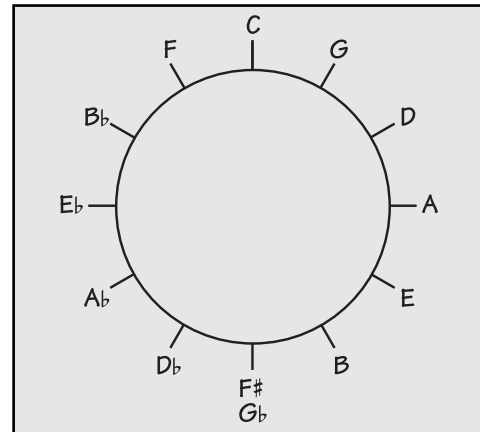
♪ = At your own pace

Example 18

Nine Sus4 Chords

A nine sus4 chord contains the 1-4-5-b7-9 notes of the major scale and is written C9sus4.

- **Goal:** Memorize the nine sus4 chords.
- **Lesson:** Using the circle of fifths at the right, play the dominant nine chords memorized previously and raise the third to the fourth. Memorize these as the nine sus4. Use Example 60 only to verify a chord.



Nine Sus4 Chords

C⁹sus⁴ G⁹sus⁴ D⁹sus⁴ A⁹sus⁴ E⁹sus⁴ B⁹sus⁴

F^{#9}sus⁴ G^{b9}sus⁴ D^{b9}sus⁴ A^{b9}sus⁴ E^{b9}sus⁴ B^{b9}sus⁴ F⁹sus⁴

Example 60

Let's put all the nine chords to work in a jazz standard...

- **Goal:** Play the chords learned in this chapter in "All the Things You Are."
- **Lesson:** Play "All the Things You Are" with your own variation of left-hand rhythms, always keeping in mind that the chords are supporting the melody.

One More Item...

You have been learning, practicing and memorizing the chords in this book based on the theory and rules behind chord construction. Now let's test your thorough understanding of chord theory!

The following chords have not been covered in the book since they are variations on basic chords memorized in this chapter. By applying the Rules to Remember, you will not have any trouble playing and understanding these chords. They are described below:

1. The C₆/9 chord in measure 12. Lower the major seven from the previous measure to the six and you have it!
2. The C⁺9 in measure 28 is an augmented nine chord. It is a nine chord with a raised five.
3. Regarding the Cmi⁹(maj7) in measure 35, see the special instructions box on page 49.