TRITONE SUBSTITUTIONS

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A tritone substitution is when a dominant chord is replaced by another dominant chord that is a tritone above it. This is so powerful because the tritone substitution covers the b9, #9, #11, and b13. In this exercise we are going to demonstrate the tritone substitution using voicings over a 2-5-1 progression. Later we will learn the super locrian scale (Altered Scale) which is used to improvise over the tritone substitution. (The bass notes are not provided in this exercise as at this point it is expected that the student know where these are without direction)

We are going to start with root position in order to get the student familiar with the tritone substitution.
As we progress, it is recommended that when using voicings, the student stay away from root position chords.

Dm^7 — DFAC
Db^7 G^7 — DbFAbB
C^{maj7} — CEGB
Ebm^7 — EbGbBbDb
D^7 Ab^7 — DF#AC
Db^{maj7} — DbFAbC

Em^7 — EGBD
Eb^7 A^7 — EbGBbDb
D^{maj7} — DF#AC#
Fm^7 — FAbCEb
E^7 Bb^7 — EG#BD
Eb^{maj7} — EbGBbD

$F\#m^7$ — F#AC#E
F^7 B^7 — FACEb
E^{maj7} — EG#BD#
Gm^7 — GBbDF
$F\#^7$ C^7 — F#A#C#E
F^{maj7} — FACE

Abm^7 — AbBEbGb
G^7 Db^7 — GBDF
Gb^{maj7} — GbBbDbF
Am^7 — ACEG
Ab^7 D^7 — AbCEbGb
G^{maj7} — GBDF#

Bbm^7 — BbDbFAb
A^7 Eb^7 — AC#EG
Ab^{maj7} — AbCEbG
Bm^7 — BDF#A
Bb^7 E^7 — BbDFAb
A^{maj7} — AC#EG#

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Now that we've demonstrated the tritone substitution using root position, we are going to use some better sounding voicings that aren't in root position. It is recommended that the student stick to these non root position voicings for comping.

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Measure 31

Dm⁷	D♭⁷ G7(♭13/♯9)	C^maj7	E♭m⁷	D⁷ A♭7(♭13/♯9)	D♭^maj7
FACE	FBbBEb	EGBD	GbBbDbF	F#BCE	FAbCEb

Measure 37

Em⁷	E♭⁷ A7(♭13/♯9)	D^maj7	Fm⁷	E⁷ B♭7(♭13/♯9)	E♭^maj7
GBDF#	GCDbF	F#AC#E	AbCEbG G#C#DF#	GBbDF

Measure 43

F♯m⁷	F⁷ B7(♭13/♯9)	E^maj7	Gm⁷	F♯⁷ C7(♭13/♯9)	F^maj7
AC#EG#	ADEbG	G#BD#F#	BbDFA	BbEbEAb	ACEG

Measure 49

G♯m⁷	G⁷ C♯7(♭13/♯9)	F♯^maj7	Am⁷	A♭⁷ D7(♭13/♯9)	G^maj7
BD#F#A#	BEFA	BbDbFAb	CEGB	CFGbBb	BDF#A

Measure 55

B♭m⁷	A⁷ E♭7(♭13/♯9)	A♭^maj7	Bm⁷	B♭⁷ E7(♭13/♯9)	A^maj7
DbFAbC	C#F#GB	CEbGBb	DF#AC#	DGAbC	C#EG#B

Measure 61

Cm⁷	B⁷ F7(♭13/♯9)	B♭^maj7	C♯m⁷	C⁷ F♯7(♭13/♯9)	B^maj7
EbGBbD	D#G#AC# DFAC	EG#BD# EABbD	D#F#A#C#

Dm^7 D♭^{7} G$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ C^{maj7} E♭m^7 D^7 A♭$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ D♭^{maj7}

67   CEFA   BEbFBb   BDEG   DbFGbBb   CEF#B   CEbFAb

Em^7 E♭^{7} A$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ D^{maj7} Fm^7 E^7 B♭$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ E♭^{maj7}

73   DF#GB   DbFGC   C#EF#A   EbGAbC   DF#G#C#   DFGBb

F♯m^7 F^7 B$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ E^{maj7} Gm^7 F♯^{7} C$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ F^{maj7}

79   EG#AC#   EbGAD   D#F#G#B   FABbD   EAbBbEb   EGAC

A♭m^7 G^7 D♭$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ G♭^{maj7} Am^7 A♭^{7} D$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ G^{maj7}

85   GbBbBEb   FABE   FAbBbDb   GBCE   GbBbCF   F#ABD

B♭m^7 A^7 E♭$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ A♭^{maj7} Bm^7 B♭^{7} E$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ A^{maj7}

91   AbCDbF   GBC#F#   GBbCEb   AC#DF#   AbCDG   G#BC#E

Cm^7 B^7 F$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ B♭^{maj7} C♯m^7 C^7 F♯$^{7(♭13)(♯9)}$ B^{maj7}

97   BbDEbG   AC#D#G#   ACDF   BD#EG#   A#DEA   A#C#D#F#