# 9th Chord Shapes

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Melody is an essential ingredient in my approach to improvisation. When coming up with melodic material, I like to use note clusters that I should be familiar with. For this exercise I use 9<sup>th</sup> chord shapes. I like to come up with as many variations of a 9<sup>th</sup> chords as possible (I sometimes use a series of note cards to randomize the order for me) I also want to apply these shapes to apply upper structure or altered sounds on any given chord. This means I want to build this shape from all the primary chord tones.

### Example:

CMA7 = CMA9, E-9 from 3<sup>rd</sup>, GMA9 from 5<sup>th</sup>, B-7b9 from 7<sup>th</sup>
(Notice that I am using the F# on all these chords. For This sound, I like to use the C lydian scale



## Example:

C-7 = C-9, EbMA9 from 3<sup>rd</sup>, G-9 from 5<sup>th</sup>, BbMA9 from 7<sup>th</sup>



C7 = C9, E-9b5 from 3<sup>rd</sup>, GmiMA7 from 5<sup>th</sup>, BbMA9#5 from 7th Notice that I am using the F# on all these chords. For This sound, I like to use the C lydian b7 scale



### Example:

C-7b5 = C-9b5, EbmiMa7 from  $3^{rd}$ , GbMA9#5 from  $5^{th}$ , Bb9 from  $7^{th}$ .

For this sound I borrow chords from the related melodic minor scale. C-7b5 = Eb melodic minor



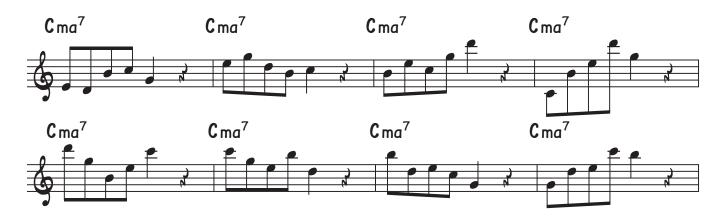
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This gets a bit more complicated Example:

C7alt = C#-MA7 from root of C# mel mi, EMA9#5 from  $3^{rd}$  of C# mel mi, G#9 from  $5^{th}$  of C# mel mi, C-7b5b9  $7^{th}$  of C# mel mi For this sound I borrow chords from the related melodic minor scale. C7alt = C# melodic minor



Here on some examples of some  $9^{th}$  chord variations. Adjust the octave accordingly to make the best sounding melodies. This will take some experimentation.



Transfer these shapes to the other parts of the chord  $3^{rd}$ ,  $5^{th}$ ,  $7^{th}$ Here is an example on C-7. The shape is 3-2-7-1-5



Here is the shape from above applied to a 2-5-1 progression. Notice the C7alt (A C#-MA9 is borrowed from the melodic minor sound)



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## 7-9-3-1-5 shape



Mixing up the shapes



Combined with scale motion or bebop type phrases

