

STRADELLA ACCORDION COMPLEX BASS CHORDS

PRINCIPLE: Extended chords enhance music when playing solo treble orchestral notes.

NOTATION: Counterbass: underlined Slash Chords: chord/bass note
C [over Ab bass note] C/E = E counterbass + C major chord
Ab or G# [over E bass note] C7/Bb = Bb bass note + C7 chord

ORIENTATION: from a bass note. Root (C) => 5th(G); 3rd(E); b(B); #(C#); 4th(F); 6th(A), etc.

THREE WAYS TO BUILD A COMPLEX BASS CHORD:

1. ADD NOTE: a fourth note added to a major or minor chord triad.
For example add sixth, major seventh, flat 9th => to play C6, Cm6, Cmaj7(?), C7b9
2. PLAY INNER CHORD: with or without root.
Cmaj7 contains Em; C9 contains Gm; C7b9 contains Bbdim; Cø7 contains Ebm;.
3. PLAY THREE BUTTONS: C+ (augmented or #5) => C G#/E Cmaj9 => C & G/C

The “quality” of a chord depends upon the root, the third (establishes major or minor), and 7th or 9th which may be natural or flatted. It is preferable to include these notes.

Any note of a diminished or an augmented chord can be the root. As there are only three diminished chords and only four augmented chords, you can substitute the nearest.

(Cdim = Ebdim = F#dim = Adim) (Ddim = Fdim = Abdim) (Gdim = Bbdim = Dbdim)
(C+ = Ab+ = E+) (F+ = A+ = C#+) (G+ = B+ = D#) (D+ = F# = G#)

Stradella Bass Seventh and Diminished chords omit the 5th. (e.g. C7 omits G, Cdim omits Gb)
Therefore Cdim [Co] = Cm6, F7, or D7b9

C7, C7b9, C9, Cø7, C11, C13 all contain a flat 7th. Can substitute C7 for all, except Cø7.

PLAYING USEFUL CHORDS (examples with C as root):

C6 => C + Am (Am/C) or C/A or Cdim (Same as Am7) (Can substitute for major chord)

Cmaj7 [C Δ] => C + Em (Em/C) or C/B (Can substitute for major chord)

C9 => C + Gm (Gm/C) (Occasionally can substitute for major chord)

Cm6 => A + Cm (Cm/A) [Same as Aø7] or Cm6 <= Cdim => F7

Cm7 => C + Eb (Eb/C) (= Eb6) Counterbass root for chords with flat 3rd & 7th(m7&ø7)

Cø7 [Cø, Cm7b5, half dim, dim 7th] => C [or C] + Ebm (Ebm/C) (Same as Ebm6)

C7b9 => C + Bbdim [two rows down] (Bbdim/C) or C# + C7 (C7/C#)
or C + Dbdim (Dbdim/C)

Csus4 => Bb/C “Reverse 7th” B7 => Gbdim/B

Tritone Substitution [flat 5th, three whole step notes up, or two counterbass buttons up]

Tritone chords have same 3rd and 7th, but in reverse order.

D7 <=> Ab7 G7 <=> Db7 or C#7 C7 <=> Gb7 or F#7 F7 <=> B7 Bb7 <=> E7 Eb7 <=> A7

Don't Blame Me

Dorothy Fields

Jimmy McHugh

Chords: C6, E \emptyset 7, Am7, D \emptyset 7, G13, Cmaj9

Musical notation for measures 1-7. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Measure 1: C6 chord, quarter note G4. Measure 2: E \emptyset 7 chord, quarter note Bb3. Measure 3: Am7 chord, quarter note A3. Measure 4: Am7 chord, quarter note G3. Measure 5: D \emptyset 7 chord, quarter notes F#4, G4, A4 (triplets). Measure 6: G13 chord, quarter notes G4, F#4. Measure 7: Cmaj9 chord, quarter note E4.

Chords: Am7, D \emptyset 7, G7, E \emptyset 7, Am7, Dm7, G7, Cmaj9

Musical notation for measures 8-15. Measure 8: Am7 chord, quarter note G3. Measure 9: D \emptyset 7 chord, quarter notes F#4, G4, A4 (triplets). Measure 10: G7 chord, quarter notes G4, F#4. Measure 11: E \emptyset 7 chord, quarter notes D4, E4, F4 (triplets). Measure 12: Am7 chord, quarter notes G4, F#4. Measure 13: Dm7 chord, quarter note D4. Measure 14: G7 chord, quarter note G3. Measure 15: Cmaj9 chord, quarter note E4.

Chords: C/A, Gm/E, A7/C#, Fm/D, G7, Em

Musical notation for measures 16-22. Measure 16: C/A chord, quarter note G3. Measure 17: Gm/E chord, quarter note Bb3. Measure 18: A7/C# chord, quarter note A3. Measure 19: A7/C# chord, quarter note G3. Measure 20: Fm/D chord, quarter notes F#4, G4, A4 (triplets). Measure 21: G7 chord, quarter notes G4, F#4. Measure 22: Em chord, quarter note E4.

Chords: Am, Fm/D, G7, Gm/E, C/A, F/D, Db7, C&G/C

Musical notation for measures 23-30. Measure 23: Am chord, quarter note G3. Measure 24: Fm/D chord, quarter notes F#4, G4, A4 (triplets). Measure 25: G7 chord, quarter notes G4, F#4. Measure 26: Gm/E chord, quarter notes D4, E4, F4 (triplets). Measure 27: C/A chord, quarter notes G4, F#4. Measure 28: F/D chord, quarter note F4. Measure 29: Db7 chord, quarter note Bb3. Measure 30: C&G/C chord, quarter note E4.