Harmony: Basic Chord Types and Their Uses
Ted Greene, 1977-10-31

Major Types:
1) Major chord types are one of the pillars of harmony; the most basic type of major chord is the major *triad* itself, which has been in use for hundreds of years in passages like the following:

Key of F

![Chord Diagrams]

A good knowledge of progressions such as these can be obtained through a study of Baroque and earlier periods of music. As you may also know, major triads form the basis for much rock, folk, and pop music (ask for demonstration if in doubt on this).

2) Around 100 years or so ago, major 6th chords came into common usage as direct replacement of the major triad. Here is a “I-IV-V” type example in F:

![Chord Diagrams]

Here is an example that shifts tonal centers (keys) from D to Gb to Bb:
3) The major added 9th (written: add9 or /9) is another beautiful chord that can replace a major triad. (Note that when you play a 6th or add9 chord in place of a major chord, you are not really “replacing” the chord in one sense, but rather enriching it by adding a 6th or a 9th. Also, you may have noticed some “illogic” in the names – if so bring it up and we will discuss it – I don’t like it either, but we’re stuck with it at least to a certain extent). Anyway...about those add9’s, try the following:

Variations on above:

4) Major 7ths (Δ7) are a common “replacement” for major triads:
5) Major 9th (Δ9) and major 13th (Δ13) [and major 9/6th (Δ9/6)] chords are other great major family sounds:
6) Major 6/9 chords (6/9) are another unique color that can be used instead of the major triad; notice the kind of oriental sound that they have:

7) One other chord available in the major family is the $\Delta 7/6$:

Extra Major Types:
1) Any of the preceding major type of chords may be enriched by the addition of a #11 tone:
2) The 3rd in certain major chords may be replaced with the 2nd or 4th:

3) The 6th and 4th tones may replace (and resolve to) the 5th and 3rd. The resulting structure is what is known as a 6/4 chord (a real 6/4).

Credit to Spud Murphy for this concept.
**HARMONY: BASIC CHORD TYPES & THEIR USES**

**Major Chord Types:** Major chord types are one of the pillars of harmony; the most basic type of major chord is the major triad itself, which has been in use for hundreds of years in passages like the following:

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F Bb F C F 
5 A D 5 E A 
F#m D E 2 1 E
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A good knowledge of progressions such as these can be obtained through a study of the BAROQUE and earlier periods of music.

As you may also know, major triads form the basis for much rock, folk and pop music (and for demonstration if in doubt on this). Around 100 years ago, MAJOR 6TH chords came into common usage as a direct replacement of the major triad. Here is a "I IV I" type example in F:

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D6 F6 Bb6 B6 F6 C6 Bb6 Bb6 C6 D
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Here is an example that shifts tonal centers (keys) from D to Gb to Bb:

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D6 F6 Bb6 B6 F6 C6 Bb6 Bb6 C6 D
```

3. **The Major Added 9th** (written: add 9 or 9) is another beautiful chord that can replace a major triad. (Note that when you play a 6th or add 9 chord in place of a major chord, you are not really "replacing" the chord in one sense, but rather enriching it by adding a 9th or a 9th. Also, you may have noticed some "logic" in the names - i.e. bringing it up a 5th will give you a 9th and vice versa, etc., etc.) Anyway...... about those add 9's, try the following:

[VARIATION ON ABOVE:]

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D6 F6 Bb6 B6 F6 A6 D9 D7 A9
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4. **Major 7ths (Δ7)** are a common "replacement" for major triads:

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Gb Gb7 Cb9 Cb6 Gb7 Gb7 Cb7 Cb7 Gb7 Bb9 Bb7 Ed9 AxA7 Gb7
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[Diagram continues with more chords and progressions, including examples of the added 6th, 9th, and other types of chord embellishments.]
**HARMONY: BASIC CHORD TYPES**

Major 9th (C9) and major 13th (C13) chords are other great major family sounds.

**EXTRA MAJOR TYPES**

1. Any of the preceding major types of chords may be enriched by the addition of a #11th tone:

2. The 3rd in certain major chords may be replaced with the 2nd or 4th:

3. The 6th is 4th tone may replace (and resolve to) the 5th + 3rd. The resulting structure is:

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MAJOR TONES: 6

MAJOR 9TH (C9) and MAJOR 13TH (C13) CHORDS ARE OTHER GREAT MAJOR FAMILY SOUNDS.

- For all these chords down a 5th:
  - Notice the kind of sweet sound that they have.
  - Major 9th chords (C9) are another unique color that can be used instead of the major triad.
  - Notice the kind of sweet sound that they have.

- One other chord available in the major family is the A7/6:

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