**BASIC TRIADS**

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1. **A great exercise for many instruments, is to practice THE basic triads; major, minor, diminished and augmented. Basic triads can be practiced over a variety of root movements including the Circle of Keys, Whole-step, Half-step, Minor third, Major third and Randomly. These 3-note groups identify basic chords and key centers and can be played over any number of harmonic paths. Let’s use C Major Triad as a starting point:**

**C E G/F A C/ Bb D F/Eb G Bb/ Ab C Eb/ Db F Ab /etc. (ascending)**

**G E C/ C A F/ F D Bb/ Bb G Eb/ Eb C Ab/Ab F Db/etc. (descending)**

**Mix groups; 2 up, 1 down: C E G / F A C/ F D Bb/ Ab C Eb/ Db F Ab/ Db Bb Gb/etc.**

**2 up, 2 down: C E G / F A C/ F D Bb/ Bb G Eb/ Ab C Eb/ Db F Ab/ Db Bb Gb/ F# D# B/etc.**

**Using the 12 keys, move up and down triads using any order as you travel through the keys. Notice the number of increased possibilities.**

1. **Let’s now change the order of the triad with starting on the *third* of each major triad.**

**E G C/ A C F/ D F Bb/G Bb Eb/ C Eb Ab/F Ab Db/ etc. (ascending)**

**E C G/A F C/ D Bb F/ G Eb Bb/ C Ab Eb/F Db Ab/etc. (descending)**

**Major Triad mixed groups; E G C / F A C/ D Bb F/G Bb Eb/ C Ab Eb/Db F Ab/ etc.**

**And/or G E C /A C F/ Bb F D/ Eb G Bb/Ab C Eb/F Ab Db/ etc.**

1. **Let’s now change the order of the triad with starting on the *fifth* of each major triad, and then start to mix the order.**

**G E C / C A F / F D Bb/ Bb G Eb/ Eb C Ab/etc. G C E / C F A/ F Bb D / Bb Eb G/ Eb Ab C /etc.**

1. **4-note groups: Add the root next either by returning to the root or at the octave above from where you began. For example, C E G C/ F A C F/ Bb D F Bb/ Eb G Bb Eb/ etc. Notice the number of 4-note groupings increase.**

1. **5-note groups: Repeat any note of the triad and change the direction as you wish. Now the number of possible groupings increase even further. For example,**

**C E G C E / F A C F A / Bb D F Bb D/ Eb G Bb Eb G/ Ab Eb C Ab C/ F Ab Db F Db/etc.**

**And/or E G C E G / A C F A C / D F Bb D F / G Bb Eb G Bb / C Eb Ab C Eb / etc.**

**Apply to minor, diminished and augmented triads.**

**Playing in as many different rhythms as possible after starting with quarter-notes then 8th-notes which create triplets using 3-note triads, 4 quarter-notes or 8th-notes and quintuplets using 5-note groupings.**

1. **Take each group of triads (major, minor, diminished, augmented) and create many possibilities by starting in any order of the (1,3,5) triad. Different starting notes of the triad result in: 135, 153, 315, 351, 531, 513. Change the order, and/or octave or direction of any note of the triad.**
2. **The final and/or nearly endless step would be to play the triad groups and then move up or down chromatically from any chord tone. Try not repeat in any kind sequential manner. For example,**

**Major Triads: C E G /Ab Eb C /B D# F# /F A C /Db F Ab / G Bb Eb /E C# A /Ab C Eb /E..**

**Minor Triads: Bb Db F / E G B /C Ab F/ E C A /Ab Eb B /C Eb G / F# B D /Eb Bb Gb/ F..**

**Diminished Triads: F# A C /B F D /Db Bb G /Ab D F /E Bb G /F# C A /Bb E G /Gb C A /Ab..**

**Augmented Triads: G D# B /Bb D F#/E C G# /G B Eb /D A# F# /F A C # /D Bb F# /F C# A /Bb..**

**Apply to 4-note and 5-note groups to create longer lines as noted earlier using additional chromatic approach notes. Again, try not play as part of a sequence, let your ears take you to next note and triad sound.**

* 1. **This gets even more interesting when the 4 triad groups are combined. For example:**

**C G E / F D Ab/ G D# B / Bb D F/ F# C# A#/ A Eb C/ B F# D#/D B Ab/ A F C#/ C G Eb/ E..**

**C G Eb/ E C Ab/ G Db Bb/ B D F#/ F C A / Ab Eb B / C G Eb / D F Bb / A E C / B G Eb / E..**

**There are a number of excellent books & methods by such noted artists educators Walt Weiskopf, Gary Campbell, and George Garzone that explore triadic playing in a more in-depth manner. I would highly recommend George Garzone’s Triadic Chromatic Approach.**

[**https://www.facebook.com/georgegarzone1/videos/276319243499783/UzpfSTEwMDAwMDgwNDc0MTQyNzozMzI5MDU1NzczNzk3ODgx/**](https://www.facebook.com/georgegarzone1/videos/276319243499783/UzpfSTEwMDAwMDgwNDc0MTQyNzozMzI5MDU1NzczNzk3ODgx/)

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2F9-CCyujQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2F9-CCyujQ)

**The Four Types of Triads:**

**Major Triads:**

**C E G /F A C /Bb D F/Eb G Bb /Ab C Eb /Db F Ab/Gb Bb Db/B D# F#/E G# B /A C# E/D F# A /G B D/C.**

**Minor Triads:**

**C Eb G/F Ab C/Bb Db F/Eb Gb Bb/Ab Cb Eb/Db Fb Ab/Gb A Db/B D F#/E G B/A C E /D F A/G Bb D/C.**

**Diminished Triads:**

**C Eb Gb/F Ab B /Bb Db E/Eb Gb A /Ab B D/Db E G/Gb A C /B D F/E G Bb/A C Eb/D F Ab/G Bb Db/C.**

***Augmented Triads:***

**C E G#/F A C#/Bb D F#/Eb G B/Ab C E/Db F A/Gb Bb D /B D# G/E G# C /A C# F/D F# A#/G B D#/C.**