

Keyboard Concepts

Chapter Three

by **Gene Roberson**

- * Lesson # 1 Introduction to Sevenths
- * Lesson # 2 "Seventh Shell"
- * Lesson # 3 Extended Sevenths
"9ths - 11ths - 13ths"

"In lesson # 1, I introduce a revolutionary and new approach to the foundation of the dominant 7th chord."

"It's very simple and you will only need to learn six combinations of TWO notes!" Let's get started.....

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Chapter Three

Lesson#1 Introduction to 7ths

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The traditional format of the Dominant 7th chord is to simply ADD the flatted 7th to the Major Triad. (ex. C7 - Play C-E-G Bb) FYI - When chord symbols were born in the early 1920's, most of the songs required the flatted 7th. The Major 7th (using the natural 7th scale tone) was more common in the 1950's and later. So the flatted 7th was the norm and chord symbols used the Chord letter and the number 7 only.

Introducing the "New Approach" for learning AND using seventh chords: ALL YOU NEED ARE JUST TWO NOTES!! If you want classical proof, take a look at Chopin's Etude in E Major. He used the 2-Note 7th's in his famous Etude. Question? What are these two notes? Answer: Just the 3rd and the b7 of the scale! Trust me! When you learn this approach, you will never turn back. So what is C7? Just E and Bb. F7? Just A and Eb and so on. See it on the staff:

1 C7 F7 Bb7 Eb7 Ab7 Db7 Gb7

8 F#7 B7 E7 A7 D7 G7 C7 F7

16 Bb7 Eb7 Ab7 Db7 Gb7 C C7

But what about the BASS (or the ROOT TONE?) Hold on... we will get there. When playing in a group, you will not be required to cover the BASS or Root of the chord. When playing solo, you can play the "Seventh Shell" which we will cover in Lesson #2. Play thru the 2 Note 7ths above. Then see a simple formation pattern starting at bar 21. We start with the ROOT, move up TWO Whole tones, then move down TWO half tones to the 7th. You can't go wrong.

23 F F7 B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat E \flat 7

Pno.

29 A \flat A \flat 7 D \flat D \flat 7 G \flat G \flat 7

Pno.

35 F \sharp F \sharp 7 B B7 E E7

Pno.

41 A A7 D D7 G G7

Pno.

APPLICATION - Let's add a simple melody in the Right Hand - "I Cover the Waterfront" by J.W. Green

47 Em7 E7 A7 C \flat 7 B7 E7 F7 E7 A7 F7 Em7 F7 E7 A7 Bm7 B \flat 7 B \flat

Pno.

Pno.

51 A7 B7 E7 A7 D7 F7 Bb7 EbMaj7 Ab7

Pno.

55 G⁶ C7 F7 Bb7 Am7 Ab7 GMaj9 Em7 E7 Am7-3 DAug7

Pno.

59 F7 Bb7 Bm9 E7 AMaj7 F#7 Bsus7 E7

Pno.

63 F7 G7 B7 Em7 E7 A7 C7 B7 E7 A7 F7 Am7 Em7 F7 E7 A7

Pno.

67 Bm7 Bb7 Bb A7 B7 E7 A7 D7 G⁶ C7 F7 Bb7

Pno.

71 EbMaj7/Bb Ab2 GMaj9

Wow! I really gave you a challenge (if you are a beginner to intermediate level keyboard player. However, you can give the trebel clef melody to a singer or Sax player. Just play the Bass clef chords with your right hand. Or enjoy as a Intermediate to Advanced piano solo. Not too fast!

Just for fun, let's take an old 1920's tune and and see how the Two - Note 7ths work here:

Five Foot Two

Pno.

76 G B7 C6 E7 A7 A7

(Two-note E7 two-note A7)

Pno.

81 D7 G7 C6 G7 C6 E7

(Two note D7 two-note G7)

Pno.

87 A7 A7 D7 G7 C

92 E7 E7 A7 A7

Pno.

97 D7 D7 G7 B7 C6 E7

Pno.

103 A7 A7 D7 G7 C6 G7

Pno.

I'll See You Again

109 C C⁹ A7 B^b7 A^b7 Dm7 G7

Pno.

116 C⁹ C C2/E C/E Em B7/D# Dm7 D7

Pno.

Pno.

The image shows three systems of piano music for Pno. Each system consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff of each system.

- System 1 (Measures 123-130):** Chord symbols are B7, C⁶, A7, B^b7, G7, Bm7(b5), E7, and Am2.
- System 2 (Measures 131-137):** Chord symbols are G^b7, FMaj7, E7, Am7, B7, and B^b7.
- System 3 (Measures 138-144):** Chord symbols are G7 and C.

Now it is time to go through your music and look for the 7th chords. See if you can play the Two- Note 7ths you have learned in this Chapter.

The next Lesson in Dominant Sevenths will show you a valuable tool called: "The 7th Shell"

This basic form of the 7th chord is paramount to playing solo keyboard and even playing with a group. The Left hand will play ONLY the ROOT and 7th of the chord.

We also use the 7th Shell for all the chords of the 7th including the Major Seventh chords.

Keyboard Concepts Lesson# 2

Seventh Shells

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The "Seventh Shell" is the foundation of the 7th chords for the Keyboard player.
It is a 2 - NOTE formation for the Left Hand. The formula is: The Root and 7th ONLY

If it is a Dominant 7th, Minor 7th, 9th, 11th or 13th, the 7th tone is normally FLATTED.
Here are the (Dominant) 7ths Around the Clock in 4ths

C7 F7 B♭7 E♭7 A♭7 D♭7 G♭7

Piano

With the 3rd and Octave in the R.H

F♯7 B7 E7 A7 D7 G7 C7 F7

Pno.

B♭7 E♭7 A♭7 D♭7 G♭7 F♯7 B7

Pno.

With a simple RH Improv

E7 A7 D7 G7 C7 F7

Pno.

Pno.

29

B \flat 7 E \flat 7 A \flat 7 D \flat 7 G \flat 7

Pno.

34

F \sharp 7 B7 E7 A7 D7

Minor 7ths - Two note m7ths are in the inside notes of the 4- part chord

Pno.

39

G7 Dm7 G13 C13 Cm7 Fm7 B \flat m7

Pno.

45

E \flat m7 A \flat m7 D \flat m7 G \flat m7 F \sharp m7 Bm7 Em7 Am7

Pno.

51

Dm7 Gm7 Cm7 Fm7 B \flat m7 E \flat m7

Minor 7ths with simple melodic pattern

Pno.

59 $A\flat m7$ $D\flat m7$ $G\flat m7$ $F\sharp m7$ $B m7$

Pno.

64 $E m7$ $A m7$ $D m7$ $G m7$ $A M a j 7$

Minor 7th Shell in the Left hand. Right hand advanced pattern includes the flatted 3rd.

Pno.

69 $C m7$ $F m7$ $B\flat m7$ $E\flat m7$

Pno.

74 $A\flat m7$ $D\flat m7$ $G\flat m7$ $B m7$

Pno.

77 $E m7$ $A m7$ $D m7$ $G m7$ $C m7$

The following song "ALLELUIA" uses 7th Shell in the left hand with two to three part harmony in the r.h.

"Alleuia" for optional voices

Pno.

82

F m7 Bbm7 Eb7 AbMaj7 DbMaj7

Al le___ lu___ ia, Al le___ lu___ ia Al le

Pno.

87

Bbm7 Eb7 F m7 C7 F m7 Bbm7

lu___ ia Al le___ lu___ ia. Al le___ lu___ ia

Pno.

92

Eb7 AbMaj7 DbMaj7 Bbm7 C7sus4 C7

al le lu___ ia. Al le___ lu___ ia!

Pno.

97

F Maj7 Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm7 C7 F Maj7

Al le___ lu___ ia, Al le___ lu___ ia Al le___ lu

Pno.

102

A7 DMaj7 GMaj7 Bm7 F#m7 Gm7 Gbmaj7

ia. Al le lu___ ia, al le lu___ ia AL LE

Pno.

109 A♭Maj7 C7 Fm7 B♭m7 E♭7 A♭Maj7

LU Al le lu ia al le lu ia,

Pno.

114 D♭Maj7 B♭m7 E♭7 Fm7 C7 Fm7

Al le lu ia, Al le lu ia Al le

Pno.

119 B♭m7 E♭7 A♭Maj7 D♭Maj7 B♭m7

lu ia al le lu ia, Al le lu ia

Pno.

124 FMaj7 DMaj7 GMaj7 Em7 D

Al le lu i a. men.

9th's - 11th's - 13th's

Now that you have the TWO NOTE FOUNDATION of the dominant 7th chords, all you have to do is ADD one more note to have the extension chords, 9th, 11th and 13ths. Practice these 3 note chords with both right hand and left. When playing with a group that includes a Bass player, let them take care of the Root. I have included the Root as an after play for solo keyboard.

131

C9 F9 B \flat 9 E \flat 9 A \flat 9 D \flat 9

Pno.

137

G \flat 9 F \sharp 9 B9 E9 A9 D9

Pno.

With R.H. Melodic and Fill patterns:

143

G9 C9 F9 B \flat 9 ₃ E \flat 9

Pno.

148

A \flat 9 D \flat 9 G \flat 9 F \sharp 9 B9

Pno.

Pno.

153 E9 A9 D9 G9

Enjoy playing the 1930's tune: **I'll Never Smile Again** with a lot of 9ths chords added.
 This was my mother's favorite pop song! You can play it as a solo, or just play the bass clef if you have a solo instrument or vocal soloist play along with you.

Pno.

158 Eb Ab9 D9 Eb9 Fm7 Db9 C9 B9 Bb9 EbMaj7 Cm7 Ab9 D9 Eb9

Pno.

163 Fm7 Db9 C9 B9 Bb9 D9 Eb9 Am7 Db9 Cm7 /Bb

Pno.

168 E9 Eb9 C9 Am7 D9 F9 E9 Ab9 D9 E9 Bb9

Pno.

173

E \flat A \flat 9 D9 E \flat 9 Fm7 D \flat 9 C9 B9 B \flat 9 E \flat Maj7 Cm7 A \flat 9 D9 E \flat 9

Pno.

178

Fm7 D \flat 9 C9 B9 B \flat 9 Gm7 Cm B9 A \flat Maj7

Pno.

183

D \flat 9 A \flat 9 C9 F \flat 9 Fm7 F9 B \flat 9

Pno.

188

A \flat m7(b5) Gm6 Fm7sus E \flat 9 E \flat 9

ELEVENTH CHORDS

Eleventh chords are a type of SUSPENDED 7th chord. The easiest way to learn and apply 11th chords is to play the Root note in the left hand WITH A MAJOR TRIAD BUILT ON THE 7th OR, simply play the Major chord ONE WHOLE STEP BELOW.
For Example: C11 is played C bass with a Bb Major.. Play all of the 11th's Around the Clock:

194

C11 F11 B♭11 E♭11 A♭11 D♭11 G♭11

Pno.

Abide with Me

201

F#11 B11 E11 A11 D11 G11 C11

Pno.

208

C11 F C11 Dm Am7 C11 C9 C11 F Dm C11 C7

Pno.

214

Gm7 Am7 C11 Dm G7 C11 C F C11 Dm Am Gm7 DAug D

Pno.

** This was arranged for a solo instrument or vocal solo on the melody

Pno.

220 Gm /D C11 C7 A/C# Dm Gm F/C C11 C F2 F F

Thirteenth Chords

13th chords are one of the richest sounding chords of the seventh! It is basically adding the 6th tone to the Two -Note 7th formula. The most common inversion is to have the 7th on the bottom with the 3rd in the middle and the 6th (13th) on top.

The first example will exclude the ROOT. Then we progress from there:

Pno.

226 C 13 F 13 Bb13 Eb13 Ab13 Db13 Gb13

Pno.

233 F#13 B13 E13 A13 D13 G13 C13

Pno.

240 F 13 Bb13 Eb13 Ab13 Db13 Gb13 F#13

247 B 13 E 13 A 13 D 13 G 13 C 13
With Melodic fills in the RH

Pno.

253 F 13 Bb13 Eb13 Ab13 Db13

Pno.

259 Gb13 B 13 E 13 A 13

Pno.

265 D 13 G 13 C 9 C 13 B 13 Bb13 A 13
With a song : "LOVER"

Pno.

267 Ab13 G 13 C 9 Ab13 G 13 Db9 C 6 Eb 6
Love Walked In

Pno.

"LOVE WALKED IN"

Pno.

272 Cm7/G F13 Bb13 EbMaj7 Cm7

Pno.

277 F13 Fm Bb13 Cm Bbm Cm7 Eb13 Eb9 Am7

Pno.

282 D9 Bb13 Gm A13 Ab13 Abm Eb/Bb C7 F13 Bb7b9

Pno.

287 Ab13 Db9 Am7 D7 G13 G7(b13) Fm7 Bb13 Abm7 E

Pno.

292 Eb6

The next chapter will include moving 9ths and 13ths as well as Suspended Chords.