



## Chromatic Enclosures - Part 1

Chromatic enclosures are a simple and effective way of creating extra tension in an improvised line. They are most commonly used on dominant 7th chords. However, they can be used in a variety of harmonic circumstances. They are very effective on dominant chords because dominant chords already hold a large amount of tension (which is often resolved). Jazz improvisers often create extra tension on dominant chords so that the release is more dramatic. In some forms of contemporary jazz, the tension is not always released.

A chromatic enclosure is where we surround a target note with chromatic notes. For example, if we wanted to target the notes of a C dominant 7th chord, we could play -



In the above example, each target note (C, E, G, Bb) is surrounded by the note a semitone above and below (i.e. C# - B - C). We could approach the target note from the opposite direction and play a semitone below the target note, followed by a semitone above the target note (i.e. B - C# - C) as seen above.



For a chromatic enclosure to be effective, it is not necessary to enclose all of the notes of the chord. Any notes can be targeted effectively. It is a good practise exercise to enclose all of the notes of the dominant chord. You can then practise targeting specific ones such as the 3rd (see in the example below).

