

Voice Leading study

In this exercise, let's look at voice leading drop 2 chords through the cycle of 4ths.

Step 1: Keep Common Tone (C.T.)

Step 2: Move non common tones stepwise if possible.

Step 3: Basically, go for the smoothest and most efficient movement between each voice.

1. Starting w/
root in bass.

12 C^Δ7 C.T. F^Δ7 B-7^{b5} E-7 A-7 D-7 G7

T	12	12	10	10	8	8	7
A	12	10	10	8	8	6	6
B	10	10	9	9	7	7	5

8 C^Δ7 F^Δ7 B-7^{b5} E-7 A-7 D-7 G7

T	7	5	5	3	3	1	1
A	5	5	4	4	2	2	0
B	5	3	3	2	2	0	0

15 C^Δ7

T	5
A	4
B	3

2. Starting w/
3rd in bass.

16 C^Δ7 F^Δ7 B-7^{b5} E-7 A-7 D-7 G7

T	15	13	13	12	12	10	10
A	13	13	12	12	10	10	8
B	16	14	14	12	12	10	10
B	14	14	12	12	10	10	9

23 C^Δ7 F^Δ7 B-7^{b5} E-7 A-7

T	8	8	7	7	5
A	9	6	7	5	5
B	9	7	7	5	5

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	D ⁻⁷	G ⁷	C ^{Δ7}	
T	5	3	3	3
A	3	3	1	
B	5	4	4	
	3	3	2	

Practic Tips:

1. Practice this cycle on all 3 sets of 4 adjacent strings (D,G,B,High E) (A,D,G,B) (Low E,A,D,G). When you run out of room just move up an octave so you can finish the cycle on the same string set.
2. Practice in all 12 keys.
3. Practice singing the root notes while playing each voicing, and singing each voicing from low to high and from high to low. Ear Training is the best way to develop a sense of how to use these and to expand on them.
4. Practice applying voice leading these drop 2's through standards, blues, and Rhythm Changes.
5. Have fun searching and discovering!!!

Also, I highly recommend checking out Mick Goodrick's book "Almanac of Guitar Voice-Leading".