

JAZZ MINDS



IMPROVISATION

HARMONY

COMPOSITION

INSPIRATION

6th Chord Shortcuts

This PDF provides support material for the Jazz Minds YT channel video [“Sophisticated Jazz Piano Chords – 6th Chord Shortcuts”](#).

- All the exercises contained below are to be practiced in all keys.
 - If you are not familiar with triads and 6th chords start by spending some time learning all the major and minor triads (page 1) in all inversions. Follow this up with familiarising yourself with the 6th chord shapes on page 2.
- If you are already familiar with 6th chord shapes jump straight to exercise 1: ii v I's in all inversions.
 - Start with the notated key and then gradually learn other keys.
- The relationships contained on page 8 & 9 are important to memorise. Try them in all keys.
- Note that in the video and PDF some chords names that are practically similar, with just one or two different color tones have been used interchangeably. Eg G7=G9, CMaj7=CMaj9.

For one on one online lessons to further expand any of the content contained within this video, online lessons are available with Gavin Ahearn: contact [Piano Lessons With Gavin Ahearn](#)

Enjoy!

Jazz Minds 6th Chord Shortcut Video_PDF

Major and minor Triads - all keys

Timestamp: 1:03

Major Triads

C F B \flat E \flat

A \flat D \flat G \flat B

E A D G

Minor Triads

A m D m G m C m

F m B $\flat m$ E $\flat m$ G $\sharp m$

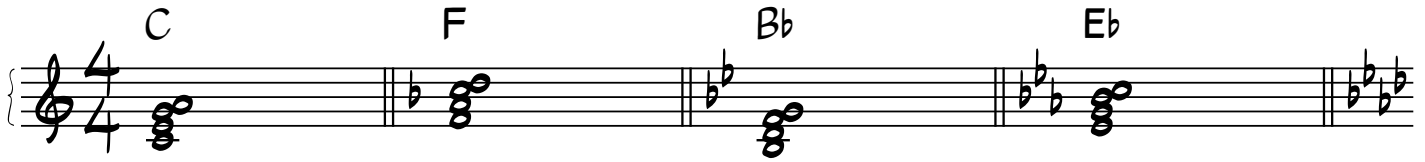
C $\sharp m$ F $\sharp m$ B m E m

Major and minor 6th chords - all keys

Timestamp: 1:06

Major 6th Chords

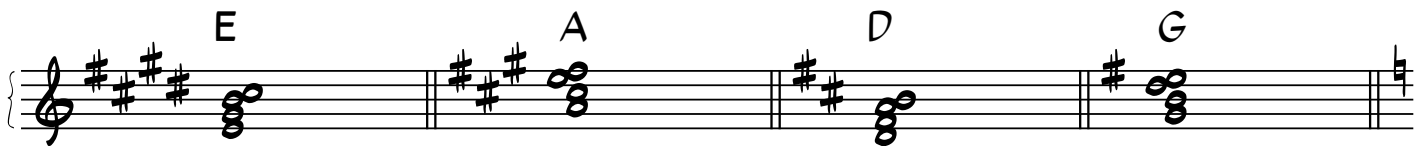
C F Bb Eb



Ab Db Gb B



E A D G



Minor 6th Chords

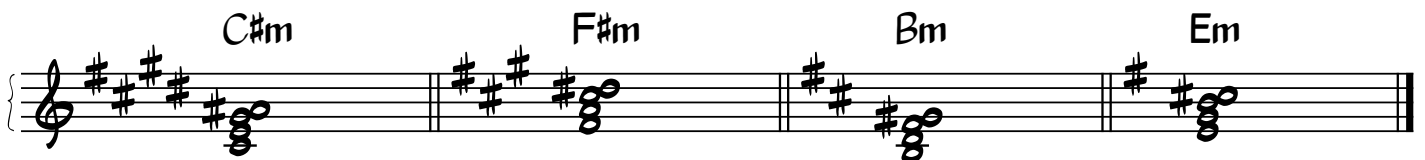
Am Dm Gm Cm



Fm Bbm Ebm G#m



C#m F#m Bm Em



Major and Minor 6th Chords all Inversions

Timestamp: 2:01

Major 6th Chord Closed Position - Inversions

C^6

4/4

Minor 6th Chord Closed Position - Inversions

Cm^6

4/4

Voice Leading

Timestamp: 2:16

Voice Leading Example

C⁶/A Am⁶/Ab B^{b6}/G Em⁶/F# F#⁶/B

The image shows a musical score for voice leading. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Above the treble staff, five chords are written: C⁶/A, Am⁶/Ab, B^{b6}/G, Em⁶/F#, and F#⁶/B. The treble staff contains chord voicings for each of these chords. The bass staff contains single bass notes for each chord. Orange circles are placed on the leading tones of the chords: the 6th of C⁶ (F), the 6th of Am⁶ (G), the 6th of B^{b6} (A), the 6th of Em⁶ (D), and the 6th of F#⁶ (C#). The bass notes in the bass staff are A, Ab, G, F#, and B.

Major and Minor II V I - 6th Chord Shortcuts

Major ii V 1

F6/D

Dm7

Dm6/G

G9

G6/C

Cmaj9

Musical notation for Major ii V 1 progression. The first measure shows a Dm7 chord in the bass clef and an F6/D chord in the treble clef. The second measure shows a G9 chord in the bass clef and a Dm6/G chord in the treble clef. The third measure shows a Cmaj9 chord in the bass clef and a G6/C chord in the treble clef.

Minor ii V 1

F6/D

Dm7(b5)

Abm6/G

G7(b13)
(b9)

Cm6

Musical notation for Minor ii V 1 progression. The first measure shows a Dm7(b5) chord in the bass clef and an F6/D chord in the treble clef. The second measure shows a G7(b13)(b9) chord in the bass clef and an Abm6/G chord in the treble clef. The third measure shows a Cm6 chord in the bass clef and a G6/C chord in the treble clef.

Ex.1: ii V I with 6th chord shortcuts- all inversions.

Timestamp 3:13

System 1:

- Measure 1: $F6/D$ / Dm^7 , Roman numeral: ii
- Measure 2: $Dm6/G$ / G^9 , Roman numeral: V
- Measure 3: $G6/C$ / $Cmaj^9$, Roman numeral: I
- Measure 4: $F6/D$ / Dm^7 , Roman numeral: ii

System 2:

- Measure 1: $Dm6/G$ / G^9 , Roman numeral: V
- Measure 2: $G6/C$ / $Cmaj^9$, Roman numeral: I
- Measure 3: $F6/D$ / Dm^7 , Roman numeral: ii
- Measure 4: $Dm6/G$ / G^9 , Roman numeral: V

System 3:

- Measure 1: $G6/C$ / $Cmaj^9$, Roman numeral: I
- Measure 2: $F6/D$ / Dm^7 , Roman numeral: ii
- Measure 3: $Dm6/G$ / G^9 , Roman numeral: V
- Measure 4: $G6/C$ / $Cmaj^9$, Roman numeral: I

Chord progression with close voice leading example

Timestamp: 3:45

Eb6/C F#m6/F F6/Bb Bb6/Eb
 Cm7 F7Alt. Bbmaj7 Eb6

Cm6/A Ebdim7/D Gm6 F#dim7 Gm6
 Am7(b5) D7(b9) 3

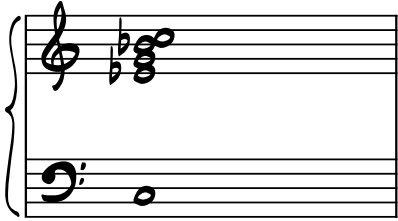
Rules for 6th Chord

Shortcuts

Timestamp: 4:08

E_b6/C

Cm⁷



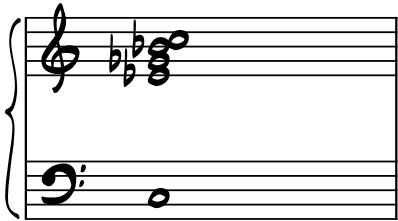
Desired Chord:
min7

Think up a minor third interval from the chord root

Play a Major 6 chord.

E_bm6/C

Cm⁷(b5)



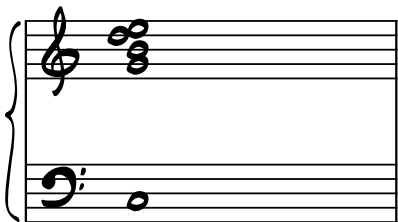
Desired Chord:
min7(b5)

Think up a minor third interval from the chord root

Play a minor 6 chord.

G6/C

Cmaj⁹



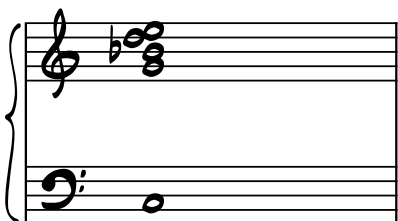
Desired Chord:
Maj 9

Think up a perfect fifth interval from the chord root

Play a major 6 chord.

Gm6/C

C⁹



Desired Chord:
V7

Think up a perfect fifth interval from the chord root

Play a minor 6 chord.

Dbm6/C

C7(b13)
(b9)

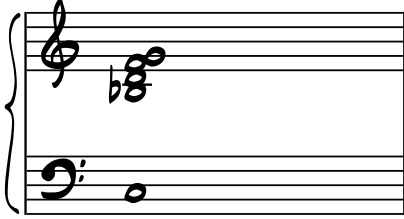


Think up a semitone interval from the chord root.

Play a minor 6 chord.

Bb6/C

C9sus4



Think down a tone interval from the chord root.

Play a major 6 chord.

Bbm6/C

C7sus4(b9)



Think down a tone interval from the chord root.

Play a minor 6 chord.

Ex.2 - Memorising the chord shapes

Timestamp: 5:36

Ex 2 a: Chord types in different keys

A6/D	F6/Bb	D6/G
Dmaj9	Bbmaj9	Gmaj9

Timestamp: 5:45

C#m6/C	Em6/Eb	Gm6/Gb	F#6/B
C7(b13/b9)	Eb7(b13/b9)	Gb7(b13/b9)	Bmaj9

Timestamp: 6:00

Ex 2 b: One root note with all the shortcuts

Gm6	Bb6/G	Bbm6/G	D6/G
Gm7	Gm7(b5)	Gmaj9	

Dm6/G	Abm6/G	F6/G	Fm6/G
G9	G7(b13/b9)	G9sus4	G7sus4(b9)

Timestamp:6:31

Ex 2 c: Learn with the changes of a jazz standard

C6/A

Am⁷

F6/D

Dm⁷

Dm6/G

G⁹

G6/C

Cmaj⁹

(Fly Me To the Moon A Section)

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains four chords: C6/A, F6/D, Dm6/G, and G6/C. The bass staff contains four notes: A, D, G, and C. The text "(Fly Me To the Moon A Section)" is written below the treble staff.

F⁶

Dm6/B

Bm^{7(b5)}

Fm6/E

E⁷ $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} b13 \\ b9 \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ Am⁶

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains four chords: F⁶, Dm6/B, Fm6/E, and Am⁶. The bass staff contains four notes: F, B, E, and A. The system ends with a double bar line.

Tips

Timestamp:6:58

Variations on dominant chords

Am⁷ D⁹ D^{9sus4} D^{7sus4(b9)} D^{+7(b9)} G^{maj9}

Timestamp:7:26

Drop 2 and Drop 3 Voicings

Closed Position

C⁶ Drop 2

Closed Position

C⁶ Drop 3

Drop 2 Example

Abm6/G G7(b13/b9) Abm6/G G7(b13/b9) Inversions G6/C Cmaj9

Closed Pos. Drop 2

Dear Old Stockholm A Section Harmonisation using 6th Dim Harmonisation

Timestamp: 8:28

Dm **Em7(b5)** **A7** **Ab7(#11)** **Gm7**

Bdim7 **C7** **Emaj7(#4)** **Fmaj7**

Em7(b5) **A7(b9)** **Ebmaj7** **Dm11**

Bb7 **A7**