

Alternative Chord Choices

(In order of priority)

1. Use the barbershop 7th implied by the music.
2. Check to see if a barbershop 7th can be formed by the melody note, plus the 3rd and 7th of the implied harmony chord. (The root will be a tri-tone away from the implied harmony).
3. Substitute an alternative chord to the barbershop 7th, which shares the same root as the implied harmony chord.
- 4a. Try a "neighbor" barbershop 7th chord whose root is a half-step higher or lower than the implied harmony chord root.
- 4b. Use a barbershop 7th or minor 7th chord whose root is a perfect fifth higher than the implied harmony chord root.

EXAMPLES ON USING THE SUBSTITUTE CHORD CHART

In a section where the implied harmony is E-flat 7 and you are presented with a b-natural in the melody: Looking at the E-flat examples and following the guidelines above, you see that alternatives 1 and 2 do not work. Alternative 3 does present a possibility, with an E-Flat augmented chord, so that is a possibility. Alternative 4a also presents a possibility, with the upper neighbor barbershop 7th, E7. Though alternative 3 is more likely to produce a pleasing result, try them both and see which one is more appropriate in a specific situation.

Implied Chord: C

Three staves of musical notation for the implied chord C. The first staff contains chords: C⁷, F^{#7}, C⁹, G⁷, Gm⁷, dim, C⁷. The second staff contains: G⁷, Gm⁷, D^{b7}, F^{#7}, B⁷, C⁷, G⁷, Gm⁷. The third staff contains: C⁺, D^{b7}, B⁷, C⁶, C⁷, F^{#7}, G⁷, B⁷, Cmaj.

Implied Chord: C#

Three staves of musical notation for the implied chord C#. The first staff contains chords: C^{#7}, G⁷, C^{#9}, A^{b7}, A^bm⁷, dim, C^{#7}. The second staff contains: A^{b7}, A^bm⁷, D⁷, G⁷, C⁷, C^{#7}, A^{b7}, A^bm⁷. The third staff contains: C^{#+}, D⁷, C⁷, C^{#6}, C^{#7}, G⁷, A^{b7}, C⁷, C^{#maj}7.

Implied Chord: D

Three staves of musical notation for the implied chord D. The first staff contains chords: D⁷, A^{b7}, D⁹, A⁷, Am⁷, dim, D⁷. The second staff contains: A⁷, Am⁷, E^{b7}, A^{b7}, D^{b7}, D⁷, A⁷, Am⁷. The third staff contains: D⁺, E^{b7}, C^{#7}, D⁶, D⁷, A^{b7}, A⁷, C^{#7}, Dmaj⁷.

Implied Chord: E^b

Chord progression for Implied Chord: E^b:

Staff 1: E^b7, A7, E^b9, B^b7, B^bm7, dim, E^b

Staff 2: B^b7, B^bm7, E7, A7, D7, E^b7, B^b7, B^bm7

Staff 3: E^b+ , E7, D7, E^b6, E^b7, A7, B^b7, D7, E^bmaj

Implied Chord: E

Chord progression for Implied Chord: E:

Staff 1: E7, B^b7, E9, B7, Bm7, dim, E7

Staff 2: B7, Bm7, F7, B^b7, E^b7, E7, B7, Bm7

Staff 3: E+ , F7, E^b7, E6, E7, B^b7, B7, E^b7, Emaj7

Implied Chord: F

Chord progression for Implied Chord: F:

Staff 1: F7, B7, F9, C7, Cm7, dim, F7

Staff 2: C7, Cm7, F#7, B7, E7, F7, C7, Cm7

Staff 3: F+ , F#7, E7, F6, F7, B7, C7, E7, Fmaj7

Implied Chord: F#

Chord progression for the implied chord F# section:

Staff 1: F#7, C7, F#9, C#7, C#m7, dim, F#7

Staff 2: C#7, C#m7, G7, C7, F7, F#7, C#7, C#m7

Staff 3: F#+, G7, F7, F#6, F#7, C7, C#7, F7, F#ma7

Implied Chord: G

Chord progression for the implied chord G section:

Staff 1: G7, C#7, G9, D7, Dm7, dim, G7

Staff 2: D7, Dm7, Ab7, C#7, F#7, G7, D7, Dm7

Staff 3: G+, Ab7, F#7, G6, G7, C#7, D7, F#7, Gmaj7

Implied Chord: Ab

Chord progression for the implied chord Ab section:

Staff 1: Ab7, D7, Ab9, Eb7, Ebm7, dim, Ab7

Staff 2: Eb7, Ebm7, A7, D7, G7, Ab7, Eb7, Ebm7

Staff 3: Ab+, A7, G7, Ab6, Ab7, D7, Eb7, G7, Abmaj7

Implied Chord: A

A7 Eb7 A9 E7 Em7 dim A7'
E7 Em7 Bb7 Eb7 Ab7 A7 E7 Em7
A+ Bb7 Ab7 A6 A7 Eb7 E7 Ab7 Amaj7

Implied Chord: Bb

Bb7 E7 Bb9 F7 Fm7 dim Bb7
F7 Fm7 B7 Eb7 A7 Bb7 F7 Fm7
Bb+ B7 A7 Bb6 Bb7 E7 F7 A7 Bbmaj

Implied Chord: B

B7 F7 B9 F#7 F#m7 dim B7
F#7 F#m7 C7 F7 Bb7 B7 F#7 F#m7
B+ C7 Bb7 B6 B7 F7 F#7 Bb7 Bmaj7