

Triad Pairs

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7:36 AM

- A triad pair in jazz, is a pair of triads with no notes in common (eg. a C^Δ triad and a D^Δ triad).
- We restrict our discussion of triad pairs to the context of functional diatonic harmony, ie. the diatonic modes with respect to our chosen contextual chord.
- For our discussion, we only consider triad pairs based on adjacent diatonic scale degrees, as these are these sound the most natural and are the simplest to execute.

Major Family (Major Chord)

- Over a major chord, the most natural triad pair we can play is a major triad on the 4th

and 5th scale degrees. This

is true for the following reasons:

- i. Over a major chord, a major triad is the most consonant diatonic triad.
 - ii. There are no other diatonically adjacent major triad pairs all of whose notes are contained in the diatonic major scale (eg. over $C^{\Delta 7}$, an F^{Δ} and G^{Δ} triad pair is the only triad pair with all of its notes in the C^{Δ} scale).
- Another triad pair which works over a major chord is a major triad on the 1st and 2nd scale degrees (eg. C^{Δ} and D^{Δ} over $C^{\Delta 7}$).

This gives a Lydian sound because of the $F^{\#}$ in D^{Δ} .

- These triad pairs work over any diatonic mode of the major scale for the current chord (eg. if we're in $C^{\Delta 7}$, we could play a line in E phrygian with a triad pair such as F^{Δ} and G^{Δ} or C^{Δ} and D^{Δ}) - we call this the "major family".

Melodic Minor Family

- Over a minor chord, if we're playing in melodic minor, the most natural triad pair to play would consist of a major and augmented triad.
- Diatonically speaking, an augmented triad on the 3rd and a major triad on the 4th scale degrees makes the most sense (eg. $E b^+$ and F^{Δ} over C^{-7} melodic)

- However, we can play a triad pair consisting of a major triad on the 4th and an augmented triad on the 8th scale degrees as well, since these are also diatonically valid (eg. F^Δ and G^+ over C^- melodic)
- These triad pairs work over any diatonic mode of the melodic minor scale (the melodic minor family) eg: in C: C Melodic minor, D Dorian $b2$, E^b Lydian-augmented, F Lydian-dominant, G Mixolydian $b6$, A Aeolian $b5$, B Altered

Harmonic Minor Family

- For the harmonic minor family, we play the same triad pairs as the melodic minor family, replacing the major triad with a minor

triad (eg. over C^{-7} harmony, we play E_b^+ and F^- or F^- and G^+)

- These extend to all the modes of the harmonic minor family

eg: in C, these are C harmonic minor,

D Locrian #6, E_b Ionian #5,

F Dorian #4, G Phrygian - dominant,

A_b Lydian #2, B Altered