

Jazz Stuff

William Schultz

December 13, 2023

1 Chord Progressions

- Dominant cadence: V-I
- Two-five-one: ii-V-I

2 Dominant Substitutions

In any progression that resolves with a dominant cadence (e.g. ii-V-I), we can replace the V chord with an alternate substitution. A set of common substitutions can be thought of as being taken from the tones of diminished 7 V chord. For example, in Cmaj, consider the tones of the diminished chord for the V, Gdim7 (G B \flat D \flat E), and use their dominant 7 chords as substitutions for the V chord. This gives us the following substitutions:

- G7 (Dominant)
- B \flat 7 (\flat VII⁷, “flat 7 7”)
- D \flat 7 (Tritone substitution)
- E7 (less common)

Can also get to the the above dominant substitutions via their respective ii chords e.g.

$$Abm7 - D\flat7$$

Note that such a 2-5-1 progression on the \flat VII⁷ is also referred to as the “backdoor” 2-5 progression. For example, in C major this progression is Fm7 - B \flat 7 - C.

Relationship to Altered Dominants

Note that the tritone substitution has the same key chord tones as the normal dominant, the 3rd and 7th i.e. a D \flat 7 contains both F and B, the 3rd and 7th of G7. So, the tritone is in some sense effective as a dominant resolution for similar reasons to the standard dominant chord. But, it can also be thought of as containing tones of an altered dominant chord. This is the same for the \flat VII⁷ substitution. Specifically:

- Dominant: 1 3 5 7
- \flat VII⁷: \sharp 9 5 7 \flat 9
- Tritone sub: \sharp 11 7 \flat 9 3

That is, tritone sub can be viewed as nearly functionally identical to a G7 \flat 9 \sharp 11 in terms of chord tones, also with just chromatic bass movement (D \flat to C instead of G to C.) See also worksheet on reharmonization.

3 My Tunes

- All the Things You Are
- There Will Never Be Another You (ABAC)
- There Is No Greater Love (AABA)
- These Foolish Things
- Misty
- Autumn Leaves
- Blue Bossa