

ENHANCING OUR CHORDS - PASSING CHORDS CONT'D

We established that passing chords simply add interest as we move from one chord to another. Such techniques help create interest when we are playing songs with few chords that are held for a while. (songs with more complex fast changing chords look after themselves). It indicates to the listener that we are going to change sound, (we mean chord).

A variation on the C4 passing chord we learned last week is to add in a variant of Cm* (I have referred so far to chords but really what we are interested in is what sounds good and not get too hung up on what they are called see bottom of page for what Cm* is).

Remember our aim is for such techniques to become second nature for us. Fingers constantly moving or adding to chords.

Lets progress what we learned last week.

We will use moving from C to G7 again. As always think in counts of 4 beats per bar. To a nice gentle tempo lets play:- C 1,2,3,4, C 1,2,3,4 C4 1, Cm* 2, C4 3, C6 4. G7 1, 2, 3, 4, Repeat this a number of times.

Now lets use the same passing chords to move from C to F

Again we will use the count of 4, like this:-

C 1, 2, 3, 4, C 1, 2, 3, 4, C4 1, Cm* 2, C4 3, C6 4 F 1, 2, 3, 4 repeat over. I will demonstrate this slowly for you.

We can simply reverse this process going back from F to C.

As long as we remember it is always within the count of 4.

Now it is over to you to use the principle of passing chords to find your own. Try C to G7, try F to G7 and so on.

Experiment with what sounds nice, there are no rules!

If it doesn't sound nice then you simply don't do it!

I will post a video demonstration for you as usual

Cm* 3rd finger 3rd fret A string, 2nd finger 3rd fret E string.