

Common Reharmonization Techniques

created by Garrett Michaelsen

1. Add extensions
 - a. 7 becomes 9, 11, 13
2. Alter extensions
 - a. Dominant 7th chords: add $\flat 9$, $\sharp 9$, $\sharp 11$ (aka $\flat 5$), $\flat 13$ (aka $\sharp 5$), or any combination
 - b. Major 7th chords: $\sharp 11$, $\sharp 5$
 - c. Minor 7th chords: minor-major 7, $\flat 5$ (half diminished)
3. Substitute secondary dominants for ii chords
 - a. Substitute dominant seventh for minor seventh: $ii^7 V^7$ becomes $V^7/V V^7$
 - i. $Dm^7 G^7 CM^7$ becomes $D^7 G^7 CM^7$
4. Add ii^7 chords in front of stand-alone dominants
 - a. V^7 becomes $ii^7 V^7$
 - i. G^7 becomes $Dm^7 G^7$
5. Tritone substitutions
 - a. Substitute a chord for a chord a tritone away
 - b. Dominant chords: most common; dominant sevenths a tritone apart share the same third and seventh (when spelled enharmonically)
 - i. $Dm^7 G^7 CM^7$ becomes $Dm^7 D\flat^7 CM^7$
 - c. Predominant chords: possibly with added V^7/V substitution as well
 - i. $Dm^7 G^7 CM^7$ becomes $A\flat m^7 G^7 CM^7$ or $A\flat^7 G^7 CM^7$
 - ii. $Dm^7 G^7 CM^7$ becomes $A\flat m^7 D\flat^7 CM^7$ or $A\flat^7 D\flat^7 CM^7$
6. Coltrane changes
 - a. Add V^7-I^7 progressions with roots a major third apart (a la "Countdown")
 - b. $Dm^7 \quad \quad \quad | G^7 \quad \quad \quad | CM^7 \quad \quad \quad | CM^7 |$ becomes
 $Dm^7 E\flat^7 \quad | A\flat M^7 B^7 \quad | EM^7 G^7 \quad | CM^7 |$

Reharmonization Techniques

demonstrated using Rhythm changes

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Lead sheet version

Extensions added

Musical notation for measures 1-4. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Chords: BbM7, Gm7, Cm7, F7, BbM9, Gm13, Cm9, F13. Bass clef accompaniment.

Alterations to extensions

ii chords become V/V (with extensions and alterations)

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Treble clef. Chords: BbM9, Bb7#9, EbM7#11, Ebm#7, D9, G7b13/9, C9, F7b13/9. Bass clef accompaniment.

Tritone substitutions

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Treble clef. Chords: D13, D13, Db13, Db13. Bass clef accompaniment.

ii chord added in front of V, plus tritone sub

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Treble clef. Chords: C13, Gb7b13, Cm9, F13, Gbm9, Cb13. Bass clef accompaniment.

Coltrane changes

Musical notation for measures 17-20. Treble clef. Chords: BbM9, Gm9, Cm9, Db9, Gb13, A13, DM9, F13. Bass clef accompaniment.

Tritone subs and alterations

Musical notation for measures 21-24. Treble clef. Chords: BbM7#11, E7b13, EbM7#5, Ebm7, Dm9b5, Db9, Cm9, Cb7#9, BbM13. Bass clef accompaniment.