

TRI-TONE SUBSTITUTIONS

The Tri-Tone substitution is at home over a ii-7 V7 Imaj7 chord progression (see lesson 46). Ex.1 shows a standard ii-7 V7 Imaj7 in G. Ex.2 is the same progression given the Tri-Tone treatment.

Ex.1

ii-7

fret 5 6 7

A-7

V7

fret 3 4 5

D7 no 5th

Imaj7

fret 3 4 5

GΔ7

↓

Ex.2

fret 5 6 7

A-7

fret 3 4 5

Ab7

fret 3 4 5

GΔ7

Tri - Tone Substitution

Tri means 3 and a Tone is 2 frets apart. See Ex.3.

So a Tri-Tone substitution is where the original V7 chord (in this case D7) is replaced with another dominant 7th chord with it's root note a tri - tone away from the original D which is Ab.

Note the Root motion is chromatic A - Ab - G.

Ex.3

fret 5 7 9 12

tone tone tone

D E F# Ab

D7 original V7 Ab7 Tri-Tone substitution

Ex.4

fret 5 7 9

D Ab A

The Tri-Tone sub is commonly called the **flat 5 sub**. A flat 5 is 3 tones apart. If you run up a D major scale and locate the b5th interval - it's Ab. (Ex.4 shows it with an A string root but try it on the E string as well, the result will be the same)