

Tri-Tone Improv On The E9th Tuning – Key OF C

E lowers 4,8 a half tone

Here's an easy way to improvise and add some more chords and riffs to your E9th playing. Of course the ideas presented here can be used on any instrument or tuning! All of the progressions presented here are played against a simple rhythm track of chords: C A D G C repeated over and over. The concept of a tri-tone is simple. A tri-tone interval consists of 3 full tones or 6 frets or 6 half tones. You can substitute a tri-tone chord or scale for any other chord. This opens up a lot of possibilities for solos and chord comping. I've made tri-tone substitutions for the A and G chords above. The tri-tone for A is D# (six frets above A). The tri-tone for G is C# (six frets above G). Therefore I can substitute a D# chord or scale against the rhythm track A chord and I can substitute a C# chord or scale against the rhythm track G chord! These substitute chords can be major chords, 7th chords, 9th chords, 13th chords, 6th chords or anything that sounds good. Just try the tri-tone substitute and if it sounds good, use it! You have no doubt heard these progressions many times. Such as in the C A D G C rhythm track above, you've heard many players use the G to C# to C sequence or the C D#7 D7 C#7 C sequence. In this case the C,D7 chords are unaltered and the D#7 and C#7 chords are tri-tone substitutes. If this whole theory is a bit overwhelming at first, just use the riffs below and later on it will all sink in.

Major Chords – No Tri-Tone Substitution

	C	A	D	G	C
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6	3B	0B	5B	3	3B 3B
7					
8	3	0B	5B	3	3B 3B
9					
10	3A	0A	5A	3	3A 3A

7th Chord Substitutes

	C	D#7	D7	C#7	C6
1					
2					
3					
4					
5	3A	4	3	2	1
6	3B	4B	3B	2B	1
7					1
8	3A	4E	3E	2E	1E
9					
10					

Tri-Tone Improv On The E9th Tuning – Key OF C (Continued)

7th Scale Substitutes

	C	D#7	D7	C#7	C	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5		3A _ 4		3 _ 2	1 1	
6		3B	4B	3B	2B	1 1
7		3	4	3	2	1 1
8	3		4E _ 3E		2E	1E 1E
9						
10						

9th Chord Substitutes

	C	D#9	D9	C#9	C
1					
2					
3					
4					
5	3A	4A	3A	2A	1 1
6	3B	4B	3B	2B	1 1
7					1 1
8	3	4E	3E	2E	1E 1E
9					
10					

9th Scale Substitutes

	C	D#9	D9	C#9	C	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5		3A _ 4A		3A _ 2A	1 1	
6		3B	4B	3B	2B	1 1
7		3	4	3	2	1 1
8	3		4E _ 3E		2E	1E 1E
9						
10						

Tri-Tone Improv On The E9th Tuning – Key OF C (Continued)

6th Chord Substitutes

	C	D#6	D6	C#6	C
1					
2					
3					
4	3	6	5	4	
5	3A	6A	5A	4A	1 1
6					1 1
7	3	6	5	4	1 1
8					1E 1E
9					
10					

6th Scale Substitutes

	C	D#6	D6	C#6	C	
1						
2						
3						
4		3 – 6		5 – 4	3 3	
5		3A	6A	5A	4A	3A 3A
6		3B	6B	5B	4B	3B 3B
7	3		6 – 5		4	4 3
8						
9						
10						

13th Chord Substitutes

	C	D#13	D7	C#13	C
1					
2					
3					
4					
5	8	11A	10	9A	8 8
6	8	11	10	9	8 8
7					
8	8				8 8
9		11	10	9	
10					

