

Adding 9ths to spice up open chord progressions - Level 15

9th

We all know that standard chords are triads - chords that contain 3 notes - the root, the 3rd and the 5th. To allow us to find the 9th first of all we are going to play each open chord alphabetically - firstly with open major chords, then with open minors, so please play;

A, C, D, E, F, G then Am, Dm, Em, Fm.

Play the chords again but this time identify where ALL of the root notes are in the chord as below for an A they are shown in red;

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E|0-----|
B|2-----|
G|2-----|*
D|2-----|
A|0-----|
E|-----|
  
```

Now if we raise a root by two steps in the scale then we have a 2nd, however if we find the next highest notes, which is an octave higher than the lowest route (see above*) we have the 8th note, or octave note which restarts the scale. So working on that the 9th note follows the 8th note, and the 8th is an A so the 9th must be a B. Try playing the A chord, however this time raise the 8th to a 9th as shown in red below.

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E|0-----|
B|2-----|
G|4-----| We use our 'pinkie' to play this note as shown below.
D|2-----|
A|0-----|
E|-----|
  
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Go through all of your open chords and work out where the 9th should be played, then try and play it, you may need to swap your fingering around on some of the chords or miss out some strings!