

## Advanced Chord Substitutions

### GUITAR STYLES

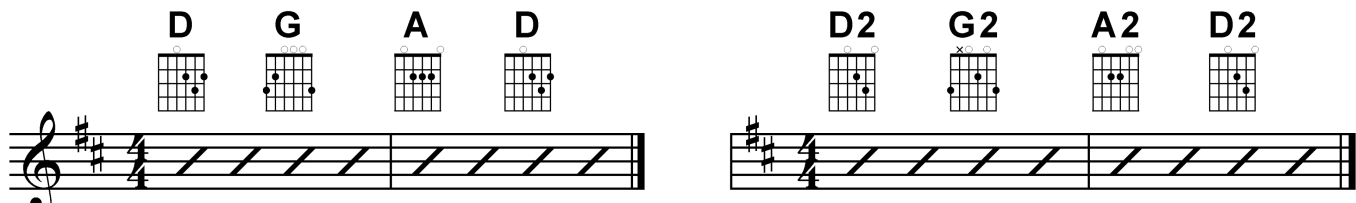
advanced

Chord substitutions are a great way for a guitarist to get an immediate change in the sound of his chords and soloing. With them, you can instantly change a bland chord progression into a radio-worthy pop guitar part. Or perhaps you could transform a jazz solo over 8 bars of boring chords into a wonderful display of rich harmonies by simply adjusting a few of the chords in your mind.

Chord substitution is a simple idea: In a song you are given a specific chord to play but you, as the player, substitute another chord over it instead. The following chord substitutions work in a variety of musical situations and will not clash with what the other musicians are playing.

### Major to Major 2: For any major chord, substitute a major 2 chord to get a contemporary Pop sound.

This chord substitution for major chords works great for creating pop or contemporary sounding progressions, and it works in practically every musical context that a major chord would be used.

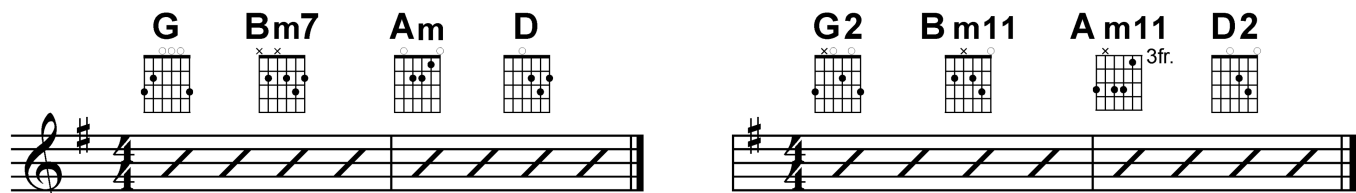


Original Progression

Progression with Substituted Chords

### Minor 7th to Minor 11th: For any minor 7th chord, substitute a minor 11th chord to get a contemporary Pop sound.

This chord substitution for minor chords gives minor chords an added depth and richness. It works in almost every musical context where a minor chord is used, so let your ear be your guide for the occasional time it might not work.



Original Progression

Progression with Substituted Chords

### Cm7 to Ebmaj7: For any minor 7th chord, substitute a major 7th built on the 3rd in a jazz setting.

This chord substitution for minor chords is very useful in a jazz setting when soloing or playing rhythm. Using the major 7th substitution in a minor context gives the minor chord the sound of a much more complex minor 9th chord. As before, let your ear be your guide as to when it works best.

This chord substitution is particularly helpful when soloing because it immediately gives you many more options to play over a particular chord progression. For example, over a Cm7 chord, you could play an Ebmaj7 arpeggio or chord.

The image shows three guitar chord diagrams: Cm7 (3fr), Dm7(b5) (5fr), and G+7 (3fr). To the right, a musical staff in 4/4 time shows a Cm7 chord followed by an Ebmaj7 arpeggio.

**Dominant 7th to Min7(b5):** For any dominant 7th chord, substitute a min7(b5) chord built on the 3rd in a jazz setting.

This chord substitution for dominant 7th chords is very useful in a jazz setting when soloing or playing rhythm because both chords share many common tones. For example, over a C7 chord I can play or solo using an Em7(b5) chord.

The image shows two musical staves. The first staff, labeled 'Original Progression', shows a C7 chord diagram and a staff with a C7 chord. The second staff, labeled 'Other Chord Possibilities Over a C7', shows two Em7(b5) chord diagrams and a staff with an Em7(b5) chord.

**C7(b9) to C#dim:** For any 7(b9) chord, substitute a diminished chord built one half-step up.

In Jazz, a dominant 7th chord can be embellished a number of ways. One of the most common is to change the chord to a 7(b9) chord. For example, in the key of F, the C7 chord is routinely changed to a C7(b9) chord. So, 7(b9) chords are quite common in Jazz.

This chord substitution works on 7(b9) chords. A diminished chord built one half step can be used in place of any 7(b9) chord. For example, if the music says C7(b9), you can substitute a C#dim, and it is going to sound great. This works because both of these chords share many common tones.

The image shows two musical staves. The first staff shows Gm7 (3fr), C7(b9), and Fmaj7 chord diagrams and a staff with these chords. The second staff shows Gm7 (3fr), C#dim7 (3fr), and Fmaj7 chord diagrams and a staff with these chords.

Have fun experimenting with these new chords and applying them to your own music.

For more ideas and instruction check out the award-winning Gibson's Learn & Master Guitar course at [www.LearnAndMaster.com](http://www.LearnAndMaster.com) and the lessons section at [www.gibson.com](http://www.gibson.com) for all the help you need to become the player you want to be!

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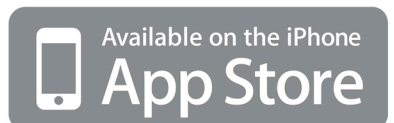
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