

Ed Bickert Chords

Another legendary compere to study, especially with ballads, is Ed Bickert.

Ed loves to use three-note chords, but in a different approach than Lenny Breau.

Here, you use triads that don't include the root of the chord, so 357 intervals for example, to outline each chord in the tune.

Though many players use triads in this fashion, Ed was a master of these chords, and he played them on the top-3 strings as well, which is rare.

Start by learning each bar one at a time, then bring them together once you have those chord shapes down.

Even from bar 1, you can add your own rhythms into the mix as you work on getting the chords down and making them musical.

From there, you can change up the picking as well, so picking one note then 2, two notes then 1, one at a time, etc.

By learning the shapes as written, you get them down quickly and get them into your ears with a simple rhythm.

From there, you add in rhythms and picking variations to get the most out of these chords in your studies.

Have fun with these three note chords as you expand your comping skills and get into Ed's harmonic approach at the same time.

As a bonus, sing the top note of any chord to get your ears fully involved with this study.

Audio Example 36

Fmaj7

Em7(b5)

A7ALT.

Dm7

Dm7/C

Bm7(b5)

Bbm7

5 4 3 2 1 6 5 4
5 4 3 3 2 5 6 6
7 6 5 5 3 7 7 6

Am7

D7

Gm7

C7

Am7

D7

Gm7

C7

3 2 1 0 5 4 3 2
5 5 3 3 5 5 3 3
5 5 3 3 5 4 3 2

Fmaj7

Em7(b5)

A7ALT.

Dm7

Dm7/C

Bm7(b5)

Bbm7

5 4 3 2 1 6 5 4
5 4 3 3 2 5 6 6
7 6 5 5 3 7 7 6

Am7

D7

Gm7

C7

Fmaj7

Em7(b5)

A7ALT.

3 2 1 0 0 3 6 6
5 5 3 2 1 5 7 6
5 5 3 3 2 7 8 8

Dm7 Bb7 Dm7 G7

T	5	4	3	5	6	1	0	0
A	5	4	3	5	5	2	2	1
B	7	6	5	6	7	3	3	3

Dm7 Dm7/C Bm7(b5) E7ALT. Am7 D7 Gm7 C7

T	1	1	5	4	3	2	1	0
A	2	2	6	6	5	4	3	2
B	3	2	7	7	5	5	3	3

Fmaj7 Em7(b5) A7ALT. Dm7 Dm7/C Bm7(b5) Bbm7

T	5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4
A	5	4	3	3	2	5	6	6
B	7	6	5	5	3	7	7	6

Am7 D7 Gm7 C7 Fmaj7 Gm7 C7

T	3	2	1	0	0	3	6	5
A	5	5	3	3	1	5	7	6
B			3	3	2	7	8	8