Soloing with Block Chords Part 3: Half-Whole diminished



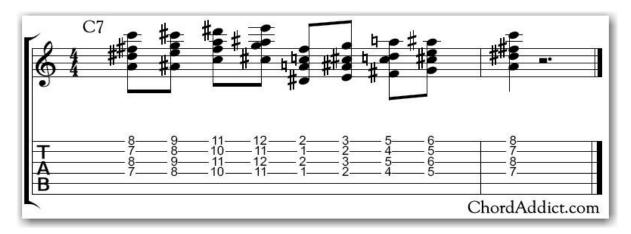
George Benson Cookbook

One of my favorite scales to use over a dominant chord is the half-whole diminished. The symmetrical nature of this scale really lends itself to block chords. (half-step, whole step, half, whole, etc.). The tensions that we get over a dominant chord are the flat-9, sharp-9, and sharp-11. This was also one of Wes Montgomery's favorite. He would sometimes harmonize an entire dominant 7 line with the same diminished voicing. Not only does this technique sound great, it is also very easy to utilize and to integrate into your playing. We like that.

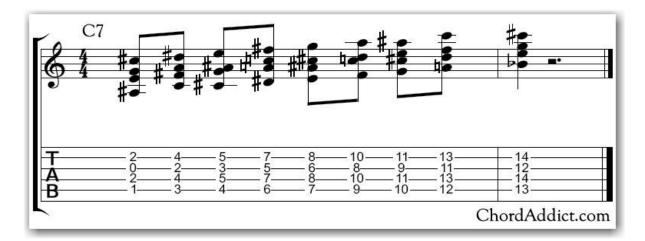
Some short movie clips of the examples

Here is a short movie clip of me playing the examples below.

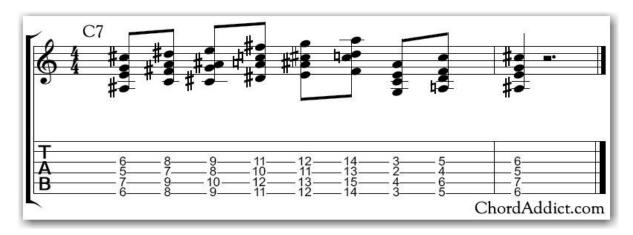
The Raw Material



Video Example 1: Half-Whole Diminished on High Strings



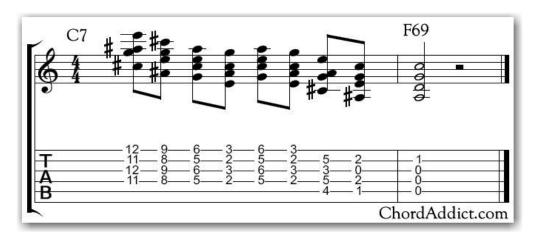
Half-Whole Diminished on Middle Strings



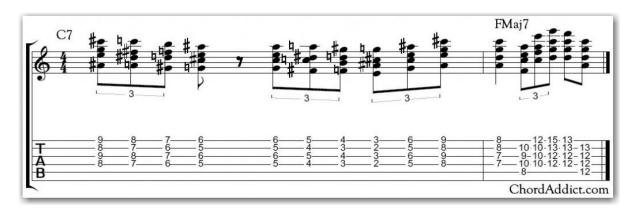
Half-Whole Diminished on Low Strings

Some 5 chord(Dom.7) to 1 Chord (Major 7) Lines

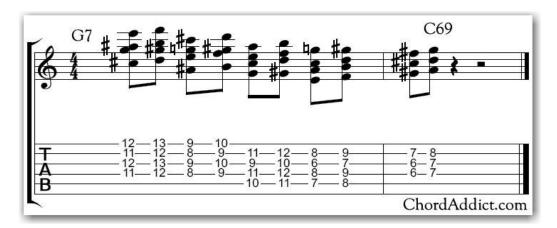
Here are a few examples of some 5 to 1 chord passages. Be sure to make some of your own lines. Try to use these ideas in other chord progressions and other keys. It is your job to create you own material.



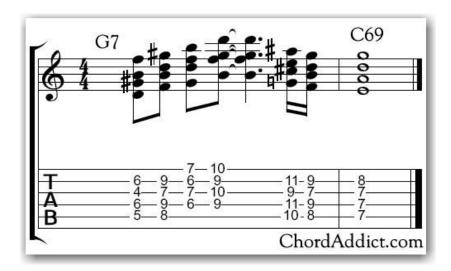
Video Example 2: C7 to FMaj Chordal Line



Video Example 3: C7 to FMaj Chordal Line



Video Example 4: G7 to CMaj Chordal Line



Video Example 5: G7 to CMaj Chordal Line

Backing Tracks