

1. Drop 2 Voicing Series Part 1

- a. *What is a drop 2* – Drop 2 is a jazz arranging term in which we take the 2 second voice from the top of any chord, and move it to the bottom of the chord. Bill Evans loved to use these voicings so often times they are called the “Bill Evans” voicings. This arrangement of notes can be used with any chord that is at least 3 notes. Let’s look at an example. Will start with a root position chord because this will be the easiest to visualize. In a C maj7 root position we have the chord tones C, E, G, Bb. (See below)



Our top voice is Bb so we want to take the second to top voice, the note G, and move it so it’s on the bottom of the chord. We play this bottom note in our LH. We now have the notes G, C, E and Bb. (See below)

Two measures of music on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first measure is labeled 'CMAJ7' and shows a standard C major 7th chord in root position with notes C, E, G, and Bb. The second measure is labeled '(DROP 2) CMAJ7' and shows the drop 2 voicing: the bass clef has a G note, and the treble clef has notes C, E, and Bb.

This is a very widely used arranging technique that can be used with other instruments as well as piano chords. In the following sections we are going to look at other ways we can put the drop’2 technique to good use!