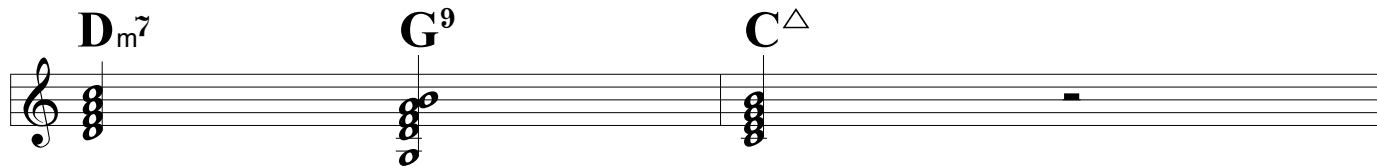


# Theory: Harmonic Movement

The basic harmonic movement most prevalent in tonal jazz is **II-V-I**. This stems from the most basic form of this: **V-I**. Up a fourth, or down a fifth. You can stretch this all the way to: **VII-III-VI-II-V-I**. In all cases, The defining motion is **V-I**, and the strongest form of it is the dominant chord to a major or minor chord.



This works because there is a very strong force that pushes the **V** to resolve into the **I**.

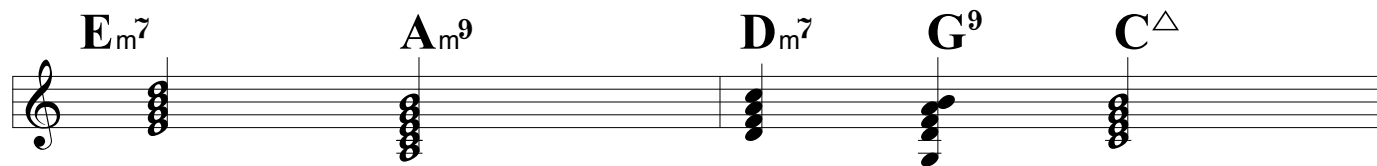
What makes the **V** want to go to **I**? The tritone between the third and seventh of the chord. In the above example, between the **F** and the **B** in the **G9**.

There are two things you should notice in the above example:

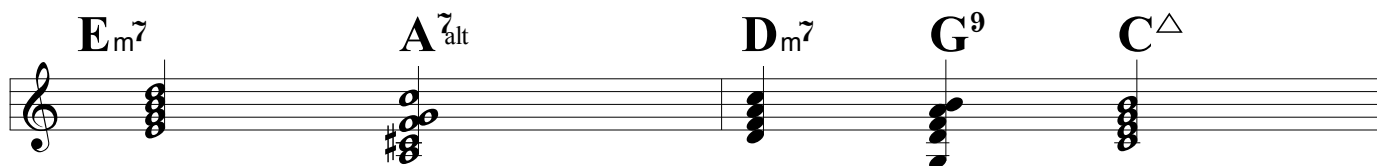
- 1-We are in the key of C for the entire example.
- 2-There is very little movement between the Dm7 and the G9, in what would be the right hand voicing, the only thing moving is the C going to the B (or the **7th** of **II** going to the third of **V**).

We can therefore infer:

- 1-If you know the **m7** is the **II** chord, you can find the **I** easily, and the **I** is your key.
- 2-If you have a dominant chord, you know it is a **V**, therefore you can find the **I** (a fifth below the **V**)



The above is a purely diatonic **III-VI-II-V-I**, meaning we are in the key of C throughout.



The above is not a purely diatonic movement. Here we have tonicized the **II**, using a **A7alt**, in effect making the first portion of the example a **II-V-I** in **Dm**, which in turn becomes the **II** in C major. We have therefore modulated from **D** minor to C major, reducing the example to a suite of **II-V**'s.