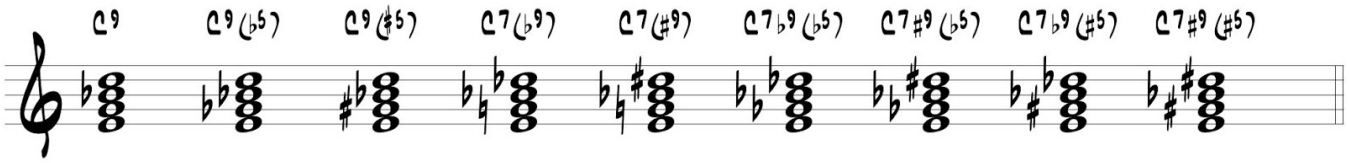
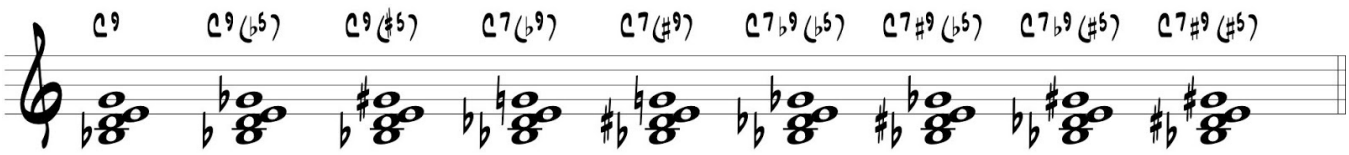
Jazz Chord Voicings - day 6

Rootless Shell Voicings - Alterations

In all chords, you can't alter the root or it becomes a different chord. You also can't alter the 3rd or 7th because those are the chord tones that identify the quality or family of the chord, i.e. major 7th, dominant 7th or minor 7th. In addition, you can't alter the 5th of a half-diminished chord because that note distinguishes it from a minor 7th chord.

In a major 7th chord, you could have a b5 or a #5. In a minor 7th, you occasionally have a #7. But there are usually not many alterations of those two families of chords. However, there are many combinations of alterations possible with dominant 7th chords and they work very well with rootless voicings. All combinations of altered 5ths and 9ths are shown below in two inversions.

Voicings built on the 3rd -



Voicings built on the 7th -