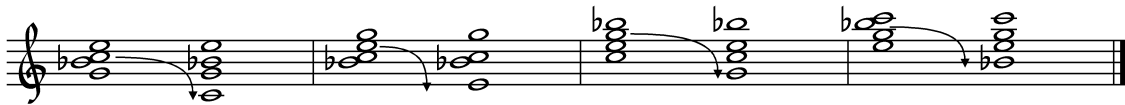


KEN KARSH: ONLINE LESSON

THE DROP CONCEPT FOR GUITAR

The Drop Concept is the process of lowering individual notes from the top of the chord down one octave for the purpose of spreading it out (and, in some cases, making it easier to play on guitar). Thinking of chords in this manner will enable you to utilize common arranging techniques to voice chords. The following Dominant 7th examples demonstrate how closed voicings can be opened up to form spread voicings (as shown by the arrows).

Drop 2 (lowering the 2nd voice). Play on string set 5432.



Drop 3 (lowering the 3rd voice). Play on string set 6432.



Drop 2 & 4 (lowering the 2nd & 4th voice). Play spread voicings on string set 6532.



SUMMARY OF THE STRING SET LOCATIONS OF THE DROP VOICINGS

Drop 2:	4321, 5432, 6543
Drop 3:	5321, 6432
Drop 2 & 4:	5421, 6532

TENSION SUBSTITUTIONS FOR CHORD TONES 1, 3, 5 & 7

- Root: Can be altered to a $\flat 9$ or $\sharp 9$. If two roots exist, the highest root can be altered to a 7, 6, or 9.
- Third: Can be altered to a $\flat 3$ (minor), 3 (major or dominant), 2 (sus2), or 4 (sus4).
- Fifth: Can be eliminated or altered to a $\flat 5$, $\sharp 5$, or 13. Always have the 7th degree below the 13th— placing it above the 13th forms a $\flat 9$ clash).
- Seventh: Can be altered to a $\flat 7$ (minor 7 or dominant 7), $\sharp 7$ (major 7 or minor/major 7), or 6.