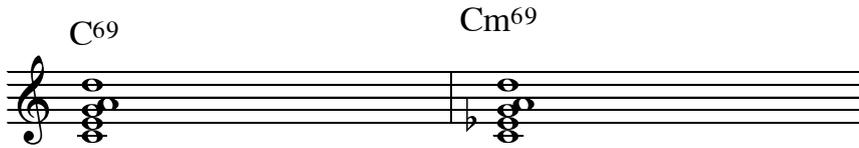


69 CHORDS AND PENTATONIC SCALES

A major 6th chord is often used in place of a major 7th chord. Likewise a minor 6th chord is often used in place of a minor major 7th chord. To these chords a (major) ninth note can be added to give a richer chord:



These chords are used in place of major 7th and minor major 7th where the melody note is the root of the chord owing to the semitone clash between the major 7th note and the root. The chords can also be used for their own sake when required.

PENTATONIC SCALES

If the notes of a 69 chord are played consecutively, we get a pentatonic scale. The 9th is placed down an octave to become the 2nd:



The first of these is C major pentatonic scale. The second is one form of a C minor pentatonic scale - it has a minor 3rd and consists of five different notes. However the name minor pentatonic scale is usually given to the scale: 1 m3 4 5 m7 (C E^b F G B^b) or in the key of A minor, the relative minor of C major, A C D E G. This has the same notes as C major pentatonic.

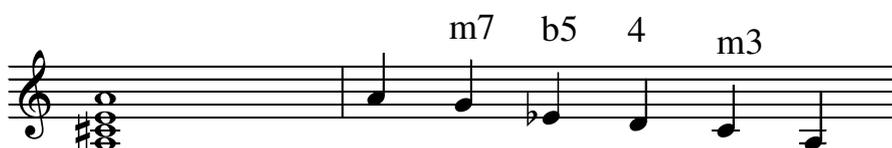


This means that the second scale shown above has no name so I shall refer to it as the m⁶⁹ scale.

Many folk tunes are based on the major pentatonic scale, amongst them Scottish, Japanese, and African songs. Negro spirituals are also based on these scales, eg. Swing Low Sweet Chariot. It can be regarded as being an abbreviated version of a major scale omitting the fourth and the seventh notes.

THE BLUES SCALE

If a m⁶⁹ scale is started on the 6th note we get a blues scale:



Used against a major chord or a dominant seventh built on the lowest note we get the 3 blues notes - the minor 7th, flattened 5th and the minor 3rd.

Sometimes the major 3rd can also be used as indeed can the natural 5th. (If the natural 5th is used with a minor 3rd we have the minor pentatonic scale.)

The blues scale is used in jazz, pop music and gospel music. If you want a quick way of finding the blues scale for any key, think of the minor pentatonic scale and lower the 5th by a semitone.

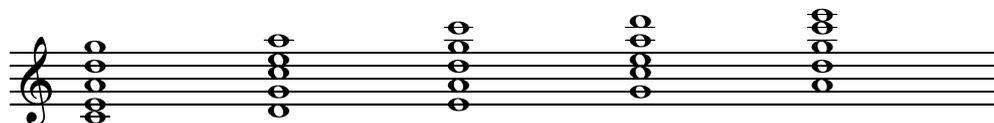
In some funky music you also get a pentatonic chord played against a chord based on the same note as the start of the scale, ie. a C major pentatonic or m69 scale played against a C chord. Bear in mind that major seventh chords are not used in bluesy or funky progressions.

69 CHORDS

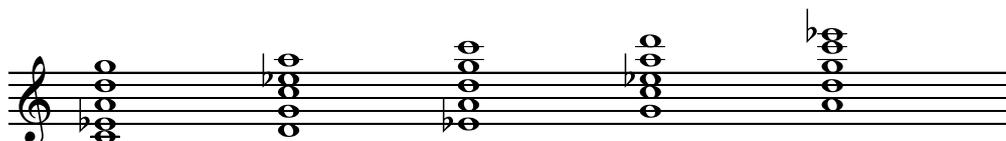
You can make chords out of a pentatonic scale just as you can from a major scale by placing alternative notes on top of one another:



This chord can also be inverted. Here they are rearranged and built on each note of the scale.



Chords built from the m69 scale are as follows:



Remember a major pentatonic is 1 2 3 5 6 and a m69 pentatonic is 1 2 b3 5 6 whereas a minor pentatonic is 1 m3 4 5 m7.