

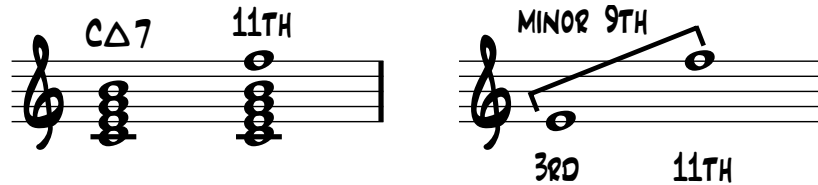
Section 4.1.10

HANDLE-WITH-CARE NOTES

Minor ninth

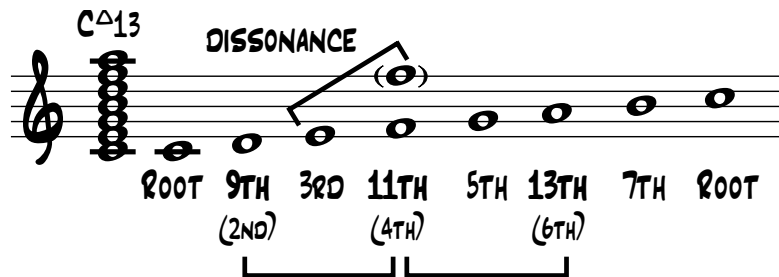
Play the C major seventh chord below, then add the eleventh F above it. Notice how the F clashes. The clash is really between the third, E, and the F above it. This clashing interval, a **minor ninth**, is called a **dissonance**. (Don't confuse the minor ninth interval above the third with the ninth of the chord itself, in this case D.) In jazz, the minor ninth is the only true dissonance.

Dissonance



Handle-with-Care Notes

If the ninth, eleventh, or thirteenth is a half step above a primary chord tone (root, third, or fifth), it can create a minor ninth dissonant interval. Jazz performers don't always avoid these notes. However, they should be handled "with care" and only used sparingly or when a harsh, biting sound is desired. In the major scale-chord, the eleventh is a "handle-with-care" note, because it clashes with the third.



Sharpening to avoid handle-with-care notes

Play the example below. Jazz performers often raise handle-with-care notes a half step to soften the harsh dissonance of the minor ninth interval. So it is common to play a sharp eleven in a major scale. However, if one player sharps the eleven and others don't, an even worse dissonance can occur.

