Chord Extensions Lesson Supplement

How to extend chords with 9th, 11th & 13ths.

Chords are named by the highest extension present in the chord.

Open position
Closed position creates a denser sound. Move the top 2 notes to the bottom
It also sounds nice to drop the root of the chord down an octave into the lower registers of the piano
Another variation is to drop the 5th into the left hand
Now let's look at 11th voicings.

Other examples of Cm11 voicings

Finally let's cover 2 major 13th voicings

When the major 7th is present in the chord, the 6 is always referred to as the 13th. If the 7th is not present, then the 13th is referred to as the 6.

Dominant chord extensions.

The best way to practise chord extensions.

Dominant 13th:
root/3rd/7th in LH
9th/11/13 in RH
Called an Upper Structure Triad.
The right hand formula is 3-5-7-9 - make a conscious analysis of the notes you are playing in terms of scale degrees. Say to yourself "that's the 3, that's the 7" etc.

Continuing around the circle...

Now repeat the same exercise in closed position.
The right hand formula for closed position is 7-9-3-5

Next repeat the same thing with the minor 9th voicings.

All that changes is the 3rd and 7th are now flatted... etc, all the way around the circle.

Also look at the specific lessons on the voicings:
- Herbie Hancock Voicing
- Kenny Barron Voicing
- So What Voicing

We take the voicings around all 12 keys in each lesson.

For dominant 13 chords, root & 5 in bass or left hand. The right hand plays: 3rd, 13th, b7 & 9th.

You will find this voicing tricky to visualise, remember to build using the formula "3-13-b7-9" and make a conscious analysis of each note you are playing...

... etc, all the way around the Circle.

You will find this voicing tricky to visualise, remember to build using the new formula "b7-9-3-13" and make a conscious analysis of each note you are playing...