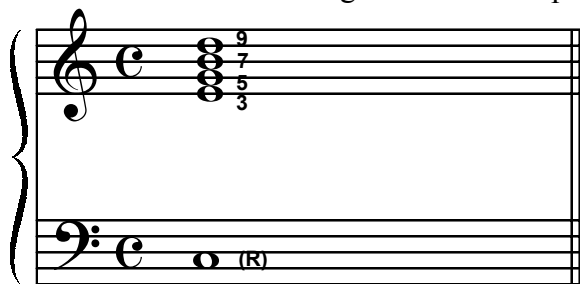


"Rootless" Ninth Chords

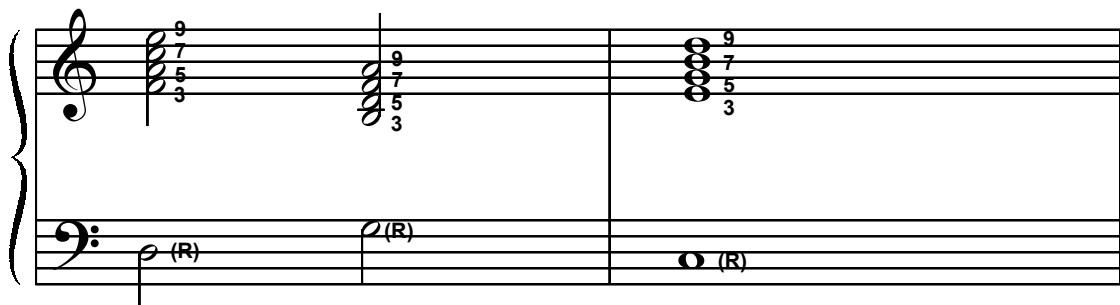
Rootless ninth chord in right hand in root position



At first glance, the right hand appears to be an E \flat m7 chord. In order to grasp the concept of rootless voicings, the student must look past this one-dimensional view and see the chord as upper extensions above the root. This example should be looked at as CMa9.

Chords should be based from the third up (3,5,7,9) in order to avoid any doubling of notes with the bass

Example of a ii - V - I pattern using no voice leading (blocked chords)



Here we see three qualities of rootless voicings, Dm9, G9, and CMa9. Notice that the right hand remains "blocked", keeping the same structure, with no inversions. Below is a more practical approach to voicing these same three chords, by using principles of voice leading.

Example of a ii - V - I pattern using voice leading

