

Extending Shell Voicings

Shell voicings are three-note chords that work especially well in jazz and blues. They include just the essential notes of the chord, which are typically the root, 3rd, and either a 7th or a 6th. For a more in-depth look at shell voicings, see the free Shell Voicings PDF at GodfreyGuitarLessons.com/downloads or my book [Three-Note Jazz Guitar Chords](#).

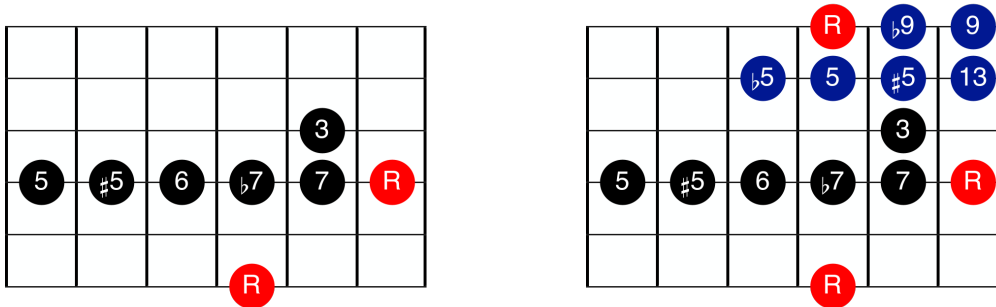
Shell voicings are useful on their own, but sometimes you'll want to add another note or two for color, for chord-melody playing, or simply because you want a bigger sounding chord.

In this PDF, you'll find four sets of shell voicings plus notes that you could potentially add to those voicings. Please watch the [accompanying video](#) to see how to use these diagrams.

While I could have added more extensions, the purpose of this lesson is to show only the most practical chord forms.

6th String Root with Major 3rd

The diagram on the left shows a series of shell voicings. The diagram on the right shows notes you could add on the 1st and 2nd strings. The additional notes are in blue.

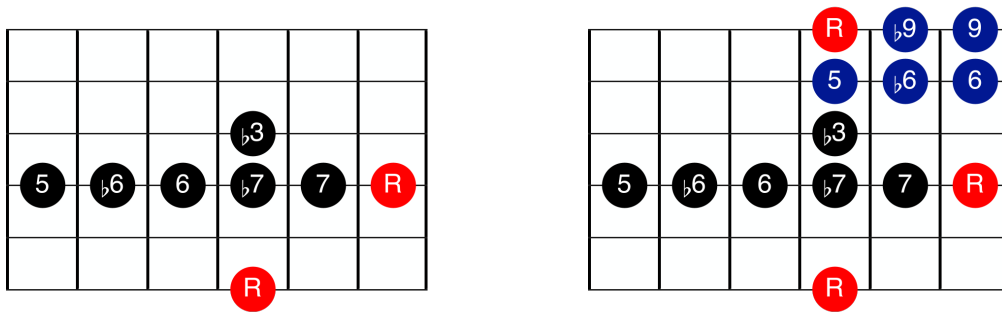


The root on the 6th string and the 3rd on the 3rd string are constant. When you play **only the shell voicings** (the left diagram), the chords generated by the notes on the 4th string are, from left to right:

- 5: Major Triad
- #5: Augmented Triad
- 6: Major 6
- b7: Dominant 7
- 7: Major 7
- R: Another major chord with two roots and a major 3rd

6th String Root with Minor 3rd

The diagram on the left shows a series of shell voicings. The diagram on the right shows notes you could add on the 1st and 2nd strings. The additional notes are in blue.

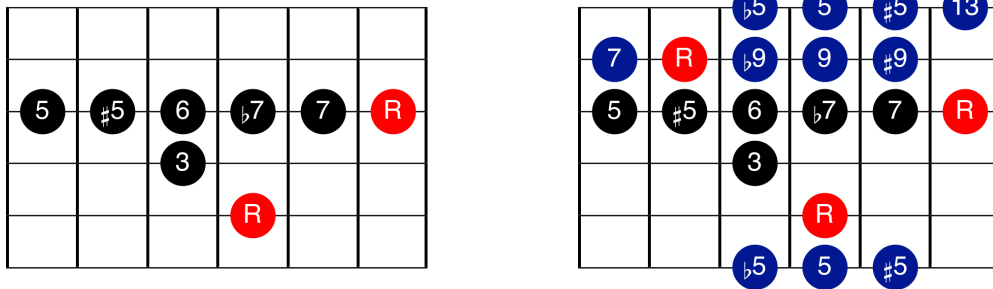


The root on the 6th string and the 3rd on the 3rd string are constant. When you play **only the shell voicings** (the left diagram), the chords generated by the notes on the 4th string are, from left to right:

- 5: Minor Triad
- b6: Minor Triad with b6 (could also be considered #5)
- 6: Minor 6
- b7: Minor 7
- 7: Minor/Major 7
- R: Another minor chord with two roots and a minor 3rd

5th String Root with Major 3rd

The diagram on the left shows a series of shell voicings. The diagram on the right shows notes you could add on the 1st, 2nd, and 6th strings. The additional notes are in blue.

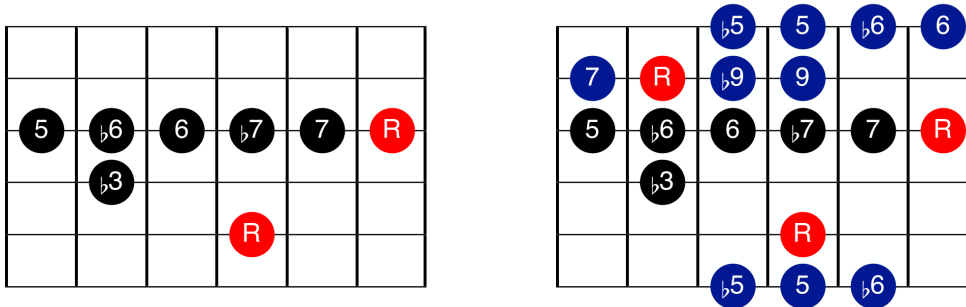


The root on the 5th string and the 3rd on the 4th string are constant. When you play **only the shell voicings** (the left diagram), the chords generated by the notes on the 3rd string are, from left to right:

- 5: Major Triad
- #5: Augmented Triad
- 6: Major 6
- b7: Dominant 7
- 7: Major 7
- R: Another major chord with two roots and a major 3rd

5th String Root with Minor 3rd

The diagram on the left shows a series of shell voicings. The diagram on the right shows notes you could add on the 1st, 2nd, and 6th strings. The additional notes are in blue.



The root on the 5th string and the 3rd on the 4th string are constant. When you play **only the shell voicings** (the left diagram), the chords generated by the notes on the 3rd string are, from left to right:

- 5: Minor Triad
- b6: Minor Triad with b6 (could also be considered #5)
- 6: Minor 6
- b7: Minor 7
- 7: Minor/Major 7
- R: Another minor chord with two roots and a minor 3rd