Oblivion - Astor Piazzolla

How to use chord combining to play some of the chords on accordion

Minor 7th chords: (example - the Fmin7 in measure #5): To make a minor 7th chord, find the root note in the counter bass row (in this case, the F is above the Db bass button). At the same time, press the major chord button, one row up (in this case, the Ab chord button). F + Ab major chord gives F + Ab + C + Eb notes - an Fmin7 chord! Alternative, play the standard F minor chord button at the same time as the Eb bass note (two rows lower than the F row).

Major 7th chords: (example - Eb maj7 in measure #6): The maj7 chord is not the (dominant) 7th of the major chord, which has a button on standard stradella accordion left hand - and playing the chord will sound very wrong! Where an Eb7 is formed from the notes: Eb + G + Bb + Db, the Eb maj7 chord is Eb + G + Bb + D. There are a couple of ways to play it on accordion - you could play the Eb chord together with the D in the counter bass row (nearby - it’s the counter bass above the Bb row - one row higher). Alternatively, if you play (at the same time) the Eb chord and the Bb chord (right next to one another), you'll get the similar-sounding maj9 chord which can be used in most cases. Eb chord + Bb chord = Eb + G + Bb + D + F notes.

Minor 7th (Flat 5): (example - Dmin7(b5) in measure #7): This very jazzy-sounding chord is played almost the same as the Minor 7th chord (see above), but instead of combining the root note in the counter bass row with the major chord in the next row, you combine that counter bass note with the minor chord in the next row. To make Dmin7(b5), press the D in the counter bass (in the Bb row) together with the F minor button, giving notes: D + F + Ab + C

Chords like Fmin/Eb (measure #16): the first note named is the chord, the second note named is the bass note - this is often used to indicate a moving bass note against a sustained chord. In this case, it's not hard - the Eb row is two below the F row, so play that Eb bass note and then the F minor chord button. (Yes, it's the same notes as an Fmin7)

Similarly, the D7/A (measure #21) could be played by first playing the A bass note then the D7 chord button (one row below).

Sus chords (example: G7sus in measure #22) indicate a chord with the addition of the 4th tone of that chord's scale - for a G scale, that's a C note. So the G7sus can be played with the G7 button at the same time as the C note in the row below.

All the other chords in this piece can be formed in similar fashion!