

A Handy Jazz Guitar Chord Chart Reference

- JazzGuitarLessons.net -
Improve Your Jazz Guitar
Playing with a *Real* Teacher

Your first steps in jazz guitar chords!



Welcome to this jazz guitar chord chart. I'm sure you'll find every "chord shape" you need to get started. Please note that this chart is only for chords in root position (meaning that the tonic is the lowest note). You can deal with "chord inversions" (and other fun more advanced topics) on the website :

JazzGuitarLessons.net

Introduction

What about symbols with 9th, 11th and 13th ? (and all the other complicated stuff...)

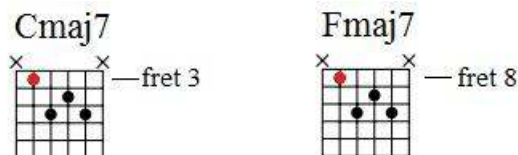
Yes, I know, some jazz chords symbols can look like postal codes! It's normal... The thing is, the chords are always categorized according to their basic "7th" sound.

If you see a "Dbmin9" symbol, you will still find it in the minor section of this jazz guitar chord chart. So, please select the appropriate chord category from the table of content below ...

All in "C" ? What the ... ?!

Yes, I know. All the chords on this page are movable chord shapes.

I have indicated the "C" (root of chord) in red color. As long as you know what the bass note is, you will be able to use any chord shape in 12 keys! For example : a basic C major 7th shape at the third fret becomes a Fmaj7 when played at the 8th fret...



This is called transposition. It's easy on the guitar... (at least when you know the notes on the biggest strings of the instrument.)

What chords do you want to learn ?

Major
(7th and 6th)

Minor
(7th, 6th, 9th and 11th)

Dominant
(7th, 9th and 13th)

Minor 7th (b5)
(aka half-diminished)

Diminished 7th
(seen with a "°7" sign)

Altered dominants
(7th chords
with b9 or #9
or b5 or #5
or #11 or b13)

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Major.....	3
Major 7th.....	3
Major 6th.....	3
Minor.....	4
Minor 7th.....	4
Minor 6th (or min 13th).....	4
Minor 9th and Minor 11th	4
Dominant (just "7").....	5
Dominant 7th , Dominant 9th, Dominant 13th.....	5
Minor 7th (b5).....	6
Diminished.....	6
Altered Dominants.....	7
Dom 7th : (#11) or (b5) AND (#9) AND (#5) or (b13).....	7
Dom 7th : (b9, b13) AND (b9, b5) AND (b5, #9) AND (#5, b9) AND (#5, #9)	8
Where To Go Next?.....	9

Major

How to identify a major 7th (or major 6th) chord...

Often printed on chart as :

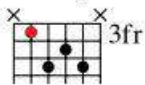
- "major6" "maj6" or often just plain "6"
- "major7"
- "maj7"
- "M7" (notice the capital "M")
- with these symbols also :



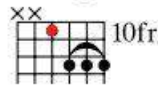
Number 7 with a dash through it and "little triangle" symbols
(*for major 7th only*)

Major 7th

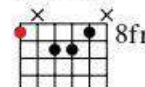
CMaj7



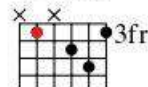
CMaj7



CMaj7



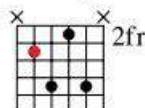
CMaj7



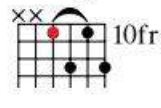
On the top line we have drop 2 voicings. The bottom has drop 3 voicings (with string skip) Carefull with the string skipping, really mute that string!

Major 6th

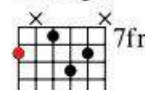
CMaj6



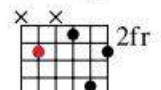
CMaj6



CMaj6



CMaj6



Lower-left and upper-right corners are more common. Please notice that the Cmaj6 (often written simply as C6) contains the same notes as the Am7 chord... C E G A !

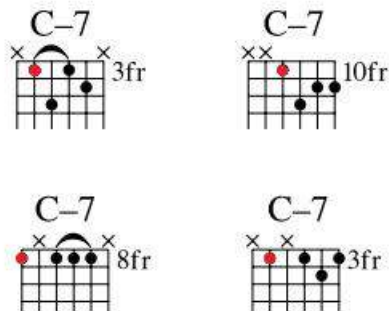
Minor

How to identify a minor 7th (or minor 6th) chord... Often printed on chart as :

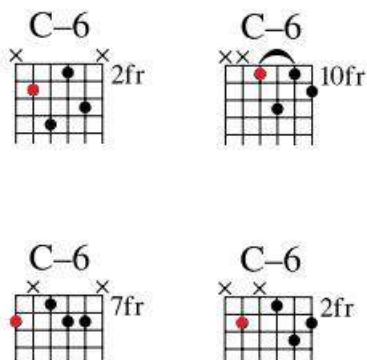
- "minor6" "min6" and sometimes "-6"
- "minor7"
- "min7"
- "m7" (notice the small "m")
- with this symbols also : "-7" (it's a minus sign)

[*The 6th is interchangeable with the 13th*]

Minor 7th



Minor 6th (or Minor 13th)



Please notice that the Cmin6 (often written simply as Cm6 or C-6) contains the same notes as the Am7 (b5) chord... C Eb G A !

Minor 9th and Minor 11th



Dominant (just "7")

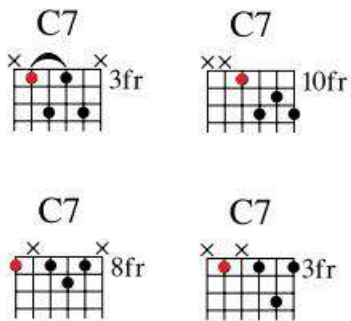
How identify a dominant 7th chord ... Often printed on charts as :

- 7
- 7th
- other numbers : 9, 13
- sometimes : "dom7" symbol

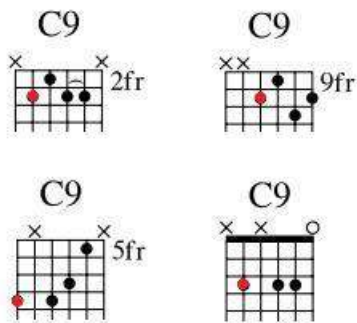
Basically, dominant are chords with "just a number", without any "major" or "minor" definition.

Note : If your chord symbol has a number **and** a bracket/parenthesis with alterations (such as b9 or b13), you should go the the Altered Dominant section of this jazz guitar chord chart.

Dominant 7th

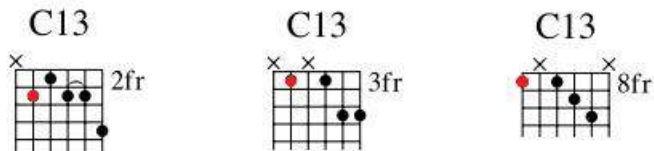


Dominant 9th



Learn to play the bottom right voicing higher on the fretboard (w/o the open string).

Dominant 13th



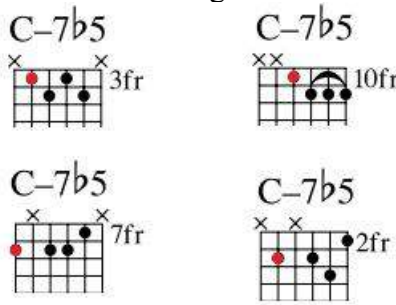
Minor 7th (b5) (pronounced : "Minor Seventh Flat Five")

How to identify minor7th (b5) chords... often printed on charts as :

- m7(b5)
- min7(b5)
- -7(b5)
- sometimes : minor7th (flat 5th)
- with this symbol :



dashed circle meaning "half-diminished"



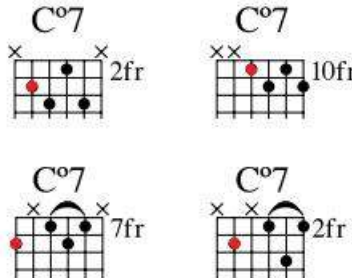
Diminished

How to identify diminished 7th chords... often printed on charts as :

- dim7
- diminished(b5)
- with this symbol :



circle (or degree sign), meaning "fully-diminished"



Since diminished chords are symmetrical structure (construction = 3 stacked minor triads) all the notes in the voicing can be considered to be the root. It means that Cdim7 = Ebdim7 = Gbdim7 = Adim7.

Altered Dominants

How to identify altered dominants : they are "plain 7th" chords with one or more sharp or flat notes in between parenthesis. For instance : Eb7 (#9) or F#9 (b5) or Bb9 (#11)...

There is often more than one alteration in between brackets! It looks like this : D13 (#5, b9) or even C13 (b5 #9) Why altering dominants chords? Here's a [discussion on the role played by dominant chords in music...](#)

Dom 7th (#11) and Dom 7th (b5)

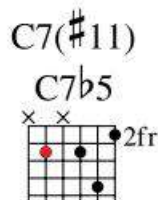
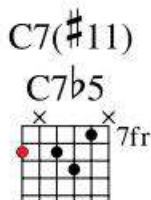
Please understand that the #11 and b5 alterations are enharmonic. It means that it's the *same note* literally. Here's why :

What is the #11 of the C7 ? It's F#

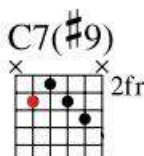
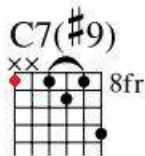
What is the b5 of C7 ? It's Gb

F# = Gb

Therefore #11 = b5



Dom 7th (#9)



Please note that it's more convenient NOT to play the root in the C7(#9) shape on the left. I indicated it anyways with a red dot, but it's optional.

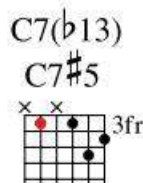
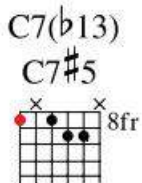
Dom 7th (#5) and Dom 7th (b13)

Please understand that the #5 and b13 alterations are enharmonic. It means that it's the *same note* literally. Same discussion as with the #11 = b5...

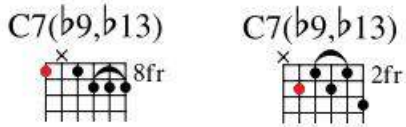
What is the #5 of the C7 ? It's G#

What is the b13 of C7 ? It's Ab

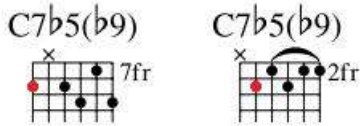
G# = Ab Therefore #5 = b13



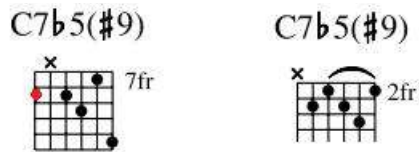
Dom 7th (b9, b13)



Dom 7th (b9, b5)



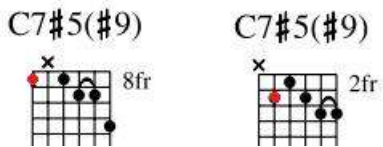
Dom 7th (b5, #9)



Dom 7th (#5, b9)



Dom 7th (#5, #9)



ALL SHAPES ON THIS PAGE:

Please note that it's more convenient NOT to play the root in the shapes on the left of each picture. I indicated it anyways with a red dot, but it's optional.

Where To Go Next?

Please bookmark JazzGuitarLessons.net and come back often!

Now, you can start by taking a look at the "[Chord Sections](#)" to learn about harmony, chords and comping. Then you can fool around with single-line improvisation with many free lessons on soloing the "[Improv Section](#)" ... and don't forget to play SONGS! Learn them in the "[Jazz Guitar Standards](#)".

Drop me a line if you have any questions! (-:

Sincerely,

Marc-Andre Seguin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc-Andre Seguin". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JazzGuitarLessons.net

"Improve Your Jazz Guitar Playing with a *Real* Teacher"