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Essential Theory

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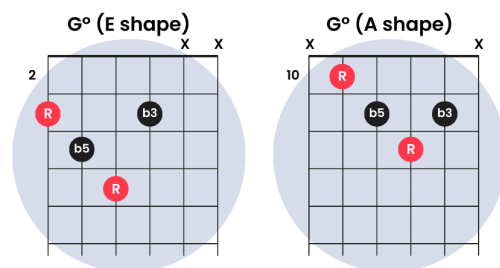
The Beautiful Diminished

We've already talked a little about that last chord of the major key, but we've very much glossed over it so far! Now is the time to get it in place properly and learn how it works. Let's start by looking at the chord construction of a diminished triad.

Root, $b3rd$, $b5th$

le

The root and $b3rd$ spell the start of a minor chord, but that $b5th$ is the definitive sound of diminished. We are "diminishing the fifth". In terms of how to fret these chords, here are two examples using the E and A string.



Diminished 101

Firstly, if you want to get even deeper with the theory of diminished chords, you can use this Diminished Course to scratch that itch! In this

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Essential

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Theory

In this unit we get to a fundamental baseline in music theory.

Lessons:

- The Major Scale
- Harmonising The Notes
- The Beautiful Diminished
- The m7b5 Chord
- Using Shapes

UNIT 2

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UNIT 3

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Progressions

UNIT 4

Minor

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Progressions

lesson, we're going to look at the chord spelling and how it looks to play a triad diminished chord.



Diminished Chords

Theory Lab

how to use it...

The chord itself sounds pretty unresolved and quite dark (although that is certainly subjective!). You are very welcome to have your own opinion on that as it will be different for everyone. More often than not the purpose of the diminished chord is to deliberately create tension that you can then resolve. If we look at the chord in the context of our key, you can see that it falls right on the last note, before we go back to the root note again.

i	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii	i
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
maj	min	min	maj	maj	min	dim	maj

In the key of G major that 7th degree is an F# diminished chord, and it will sound tense.



Try playing this chord for a few seconds, then follow by playing the G major chord. You will hear the tension all being resolved as you hit the major chord, and that's an important lesson to learn about diminished chords.



The
diminished



“

chord does have a place, but not necessarily in the world of pop music, or at least not often. For now it's important to learn the shape, learn the theory and understand it's about tension and release!

Franco

”

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