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Diminished Chords

Theory Lab

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Diminished Chords

UNIT 1 • LESSON 5 << PREVIOUS

Lesson notes Diagrams

Harmonising 7ths

Just as we did when we harmonised the key of C major to triads, we can now do the same with 7th chords. The process is the same, you create the chord using just the notes in the C major scale. So, for example, when looking at D (The second degree of the scale) we know that a Dm fits in (using the notes D, F & G) and now we can use Dm7 as well because that has D, F, G & C in it, which are all notes from the C major scale. On the other hand, D7 wouldn't work here because it has D, F#, A & C. The F# is clearly not in the C major scale and therefore cannot be used. This is the process for each chord.

Once we have been through the process we are left with another formula to remember, which is as follows:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cmaj7	Dm7	Em7	Fmaj7	G7	Am7	Bm7b5	Cmaj7



We have simply applied the 'maj7, m7, m7, maj7, 7, m7, m7b5' formula to the C major scale to create the key of C major.

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Diminished Chords

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During this course, we complete our collection of 7th chords by tackling the Diminished 7th and Minor 7th flat 5 chord.

Lessons:

- What Is A Diminished Chord?
- What Is A m7b5 Chord?
- What Is A Diminished 7th Chord?
- Using Diminished Chords In Key - Part 1
- Using Diminished Chords In Key - Part 2

The Shapes On Guitar

To help you put this into practice, in the fretboard diagrams is a common way to play all 7 chords on the guitar. Try to put all of them together in this key (C major) to hear how they work together. Try to also refer to them as "first degree, 2nd, 3rd..." etc.



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