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Acoustic Fingerstyle

LEVEL 2 • Guitar Skills



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The Sweep

UNIT 2 • LESSON 1 << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab

7th Chords

Before we get started with the actual track, we need to spend a bit of time understanding what 7th chords are. These are the next logical extensions to our basic triad chords, and we have 3 different types of basic 7th chords:

major 7th, minor 7th & dominant 7th.

Each chord has a very different feel. The major 7th chords stick to the major vibe but come across as more relaxed. The minor 7th chords stick to the minor vibe, but are a tad more chilled once again. The dominant 7th chords open up a whole new portal of chords, creating a sound filled with more tension, that needs to be resolved.



“

This is how the chords sound to

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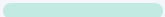
Our next challenge is to take the basic concept from the previous unit and level it up by introducing more complex chord shapes and quicker changes

Lessons:

- 7th Chords
- The First Bars
- Modal Interchange
- More Chords
- The Whole

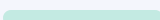
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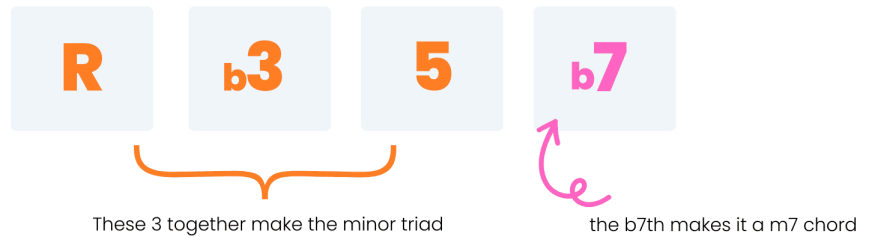
me, but
how do
they
sound to
you? Do
they
evoke a
certain
feeling for
you? As
we go
through
the
chords,
be sure to
listen!

Thomas

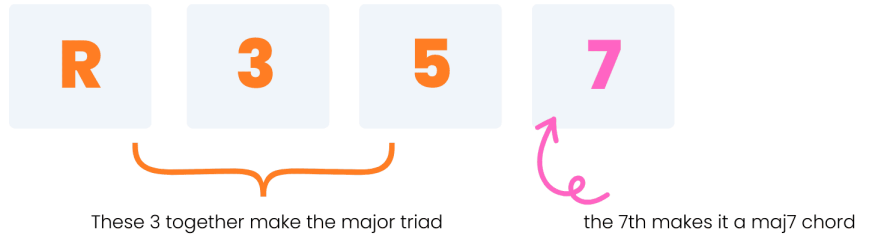


It's definitely worth using a bit of theory to back up your ear and get a better grounding for how these chords are constructed. So, here is the chord construction:

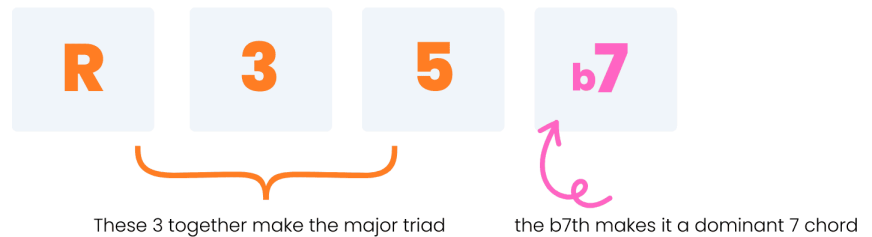
minor 7th chord



major 7th chord



dominant 7th chord



Notice how the major 7th is simply a major triad (1,3,5) with the additional 7th. The minor 7th is a minor triad (1,b3,5) with the b7th. Finally, the dominant 7th is a major triad (1,3,5) with a b7th at the end. The major chord firmly belongs to the major family of chords, the minor to the minor family of chords... Whilst the dominant 7th, with elements from the major and minor, becomes a family to itself.

Working with chord families

The idea that we have families of chords is fundamental, as it helps explain why we can easily substitute one major chord for another. **For example, we can use a C major 7th chord instead of a C major chord when playing the key's root chord.** As we

work through the unit we'll talk more about the theory of each chord, so you can see it in a practical setting. Let that all sink in, and when ready, let's move to the next lesson!



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