

The Shane Barnes Method

Essentials Toolkit

4 Essential 7th Chords

This entire course is centred around only 4 chord types! Sounds simple right..? Well it is! You will soon find out how much mileage you can get by using only 4 chord types.

They are the 4 essential 7th chord types that all guitarists must know!
They are the building blocks we will use to explore the entirety of this course.

By imposing the harmonic restriction of using only 4 chord types, we will unlock the secrets of navigating the guitar fretboard in a strategic yet interesting & artistic manner.

The 'Root' Note

- 'C' is the root note of C chromatic scale, Cmaj7, C7, Cm7, and Cm7(b5)
- 'A' is the root note of A chromatic scale, Amaj7, A7, Am7, and Am7(b5) etc. etc.

The graph below lists the C chromatic scale notes & corresponding degrees.

1	b2	2	b3	3	4	b5	5	b6	6	b7	7
C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb	B

Each seventh chord type is made up of a unique combination of degrees. They are listed in the graphs below.

Type	Degrees			
maj7	1	3	5	7
7	1	3	5	b7
m7	1	b3	5	b7
m7(b5)	1	b3	b5	b7

- Major seventh chords contain the degrees - 1 - 3 - 5 - 7
- Dominant seventh chords contain the degrees - 1 - 3 - 5 - b7
- Minor seventh chords contain the degrees - 1 - b3 - 5 - b7
- Minor seventh flat five chords contain the degrees - 1 - b3 - b5 - b7

The graph below lists the 4 chord types and their degrees, with the root note being 'C'.

Type	b2	2	b3	3	4	b5	5	b6	6	b7	7
Cmaj7				E			G				B
C7				E			G			Bb	
Cm7			Eb				G			Bb	
Cm7(b5)			Eb			Gb				Bb	

7th Chord Shapes

There are 4 different shapes (inversions) we will be using for each chord type.

4 chord types x 4 shapes = 16 shapes total.

The graph below lists the order in which the degrees occur within each of the 4 different shapes, listed left to right, lowest note to highest note.

Shape No.	Degrees			
1	1	5	7	3
2	3	7	1	5
3	5	1	3	7
4	7	3	5	1

Now, don't let the graph below freak you out! This graph is there as an added bonus to show you all the other existing 7th chord types - there are A LOT of cool sounds there to check out and experiment with if you're up to it later on. But, first things first - let's focus on the fundamental four for now!

Entire List of 7th Chord Types

Type	Degrees			
maj7	1	3	5	7
maj7(#11)	1	3	#11	7
maj7(b6)	1	3	b6	7
7	1	3	5	b7
7(b5)	1	3	b5	b7
7(#5)	1	3	#5	b7
m7	1	b3	5	b7
m7(b5)	1	b3	b5	b7
m7(b6)	1	b3	b6	b7
m/maj7	1	b3	5	7
m/maj7(#11)	1	b3	#11	7
m/maj7(b6)	1	b3	b6	7
dim7	1	b3	b5	bb7

Arpeggio Picking Patterns

The diagram below lists all the possible arpeggio picking patterns (groups of four) for any of our 7th chord shapes. There are 24 in total.

(SEE ‘CONCEPT 2: DISCUSSION’ VIDEO FOR AN EXPLANATION)

Arpeggio Picking Patterns (Groups of Four)			
1	2	3	4
1	2	4	3
1	3	4	2
1	3	2	4
1	4	2	3
1	4	3	2
2	3	4	1
2	3	1	4
2	4	1	3
2	4	3	1
2	1	3	4
2	1	4	3
3	4	1	2
3	4	2	1
3	1	2	4
3	1	4	2
3	2	4	1
3	2	1	4
4	1	2	3
4	1	3	2
4	2	3	1
4	2	1	3
4	3	1	2
4	3	2	1

Chord Notes & Degrees

Major Seventh - maj7

Type	1	3	5	7
Cmaj7	C	E	G	B
Fmaj7	F	A	C	E
Bbmaj7	Bb	D	F	A
Ebmaj7	Eb	G	Bb	D
Abmaj7	Ab	C	Eb	G
Dbmaj7	Db	F	Ab	C
Gbmaj7	Gb	Bb	Db	F
Bmaj7	B	D#	F#	A#
Emaj7	E	G#	B	D#
Amaj7	A	C#	E	G#
Dmaj7	D	F#	A	C#
Gmaj7	G	B	D	F#

Dominant Seventh - 7

Type	1	3	5	b7
C7	C	E	G	Bb
F7	F	A	C	Eb
Bb7	Bb	D	F	Ab
Eb7	Eb	G	Bb	Db
Ab7	Ab	C	Eb	Gb
Db7	Db	F	Ab	B
F#7	F#	A#	C#	E
B7	B	D#	F#	A
E7	E	G#	B	D
A7	A	C#	E	G
D7	D	F#	A	C
G7	G	B	D	F

Chord Notes & Degrees

Minor Seventh - m7

Type	1	b3	5	b7
Cm7	C	Eb	G	Bb
Fm7	F	Ab	C	Eb
Bbm7	Bb	Db	F	Ab
Ebm7	Eb	Gb	Bb	Db
G#m7	G#	B	D#	F#
C#m7	C#	E	G#	B
F#m7	F#	A	C#	E
Bm7	B	D	F#	A
Em7	E	G	B	D
Am7	A	C	E	G
Dm7	D	F	A	C
Gm7	G	Bb	D	F

Minor Seventh Flat Five - m7(b5)

Type	1	b3	b5	b7
Cm7(b5)	C	Eb	Gb	Bb
Fm7(b5)	F	Ab	B	Eb
A#m7(b5)	A#	C#	E	G#
D#m7(b5)	D#	F#	A	C#
G#m7(b5)	G#	B	D	F#
C#m7(b5)	C#	E	G	B
F#m7(b5)	F#	A	C	E
Bm7(b5)	B	D	F	A
Em7(b5)	E	G	Bb	D
Am7(b5)	A	C	Eb	G
Dm7(b5)	D	F	Ab	C
Gm7(b5)	G	Bb	Db	F

Chord Shape Note/Degree Order

maj7 - Shape 1

Type	1	5	7	3
Cmaj7	C	G	B	E
Fmaj7	F	C	E	A
Bbmaj7	Bb	F	A	D
Ebmaj7	Eb	Bb	D	G
Abmaj7	Ab	Eb	G	C
Dbmaj7	Db	Ab	C	F
Gbmaj7	Gb	Db	F	Bb
Bmaj7	B	F#	A#	D#
Emaj7	E	B	D#	G#
Amaj7	A	E	G#	C#
Dmaj7	D	A	C#	F#
Gmaj7	G	D	F#	B

maj7 - Shape 2

Type	3	7	1	5
Cmaj7	E	B	C	G
Fmaj7	A	E	F	C
Bbmaj7	F	A	Bb	F
Ebmaj7	Bb	D	Eb	Bb
Abmaj7	Eb	G	Ab	Eb
Dbmaj7	Ab	C	Db	Ab
Gbmaj7	Db	F	Gb	Db
Bmaj7	F#	A#	B	F#
Emaj7	B	D#	E	B
Amaj7	E	G#	A	E
Dmaj7	A	C#	D	A
Gmaj7	F#	F#	G	D

Chord Shape Note/Degree Order

maj7 - Shape 3

Type	5	1	3	7
Cmaj7	G	C	E	B
Fmaj7	C	F	A	E
Bbmaj7	F	Bb	D	A
Ebmaj7	Bb	Eb	G	D
Abmaj7	Eb	Ab	C	G
Dbmaj7	Ab	Db	F	C
Gbmaj7	Db	Gb	Bb	F
Bmaj7	F#	B	D#	A#
Emaj7	B	E	G#	D#
Amaj7	E	A	C#	G#
Dmaj7	A	D	F#	C#
Gmaj7	D	G	B	F#

maj7 - Shape 4

Type	7	3	5	1
Cmaj7	B	E	G	C
Fmaj7	E	A	C	F
Bbmaj7	A	D	F	Bb
Ebmaj7	D	G	Bb	Eb
Abmaj7	G	C	Eb	Ab
Dbmaj7	C	F	Ab	Db
Gbmaj7	F	Bb	Db	Gb
Bmaj7	A#	D#	F#	B
Emaj7	D#	G#	B	E
Amaj7	G#	C#	E	A
Dmaj7	C#	F#	A	D
Gmaj7	F#	B	D	G

Chord Shape Note/Degree Order

7 - Shape 1

Type	1	5	b7	3
C7	C	G	Bb	E
F7	F	C	Eb	A
Bb7	Bb	F	Ab	D
Eb7	Eb	Bb	Db	G
Ab7	Ab	Eb	Gb	C
Db7	Db	Ab	B	F
F#7	F#	C#	E	A#
B7	B	F#	A	D#
E7	E	B	D	G#
A7	A	E	G	C#
D7	D	A	C	F#
G7	G	D	F	B

7 - Shape 2

Type	3	b7	1	5
C7	E	Bb	C	G
F7	A	Eb	F	C
Bb7	D	Ab	Bb	F
Eb7	G	Db	Eb	Bb
Ab7	C	Gb	Ab	Eb
Db7	F	B	Db	Ab
F#7	A#	E	F#	C#
B7	D#	A	B	F#
E7	G#	D	E	B
A7	C#	G	A	E
D7	F#	C	D	A
G7	B	F	G	D

Chord Shape Note/Degree Order

7 - Shape 3

Type	5	1	3	b7
C7	G	C	E	Bb
F7	C	F	A	Eb
Bb7	F	Bb	D	Ab
Eb7	Bb	Eb	G	Db
Ab7	Eb	Ab	C	Gb
Db7	Ab	Db	F	B
F#7	C#	F#	A#	E
B7	F#	B	D#	A
E7	B	E	G#	D
A7	E	A	C#	G
D7	A	D	F#	C
G7	D	G	B	F

7 - Shape 4

Type	b7	3	5	1
C7	Bb	E	G	C
F7	Eb	A	C	F
Bb7	Ab	D	F	Bb
Eb7	Db	G	Bb	Eb
Ab7	Gb	C	Eb	Ab
Db7	B	F	Ab	Db
F#7	E	A#	C#	F#
B7	A	D#	F#	B
E7	D	G#	B	E
A7	G	C#	E	A
D7	C	F#	A	D
G7	F	B	D	G

Chord Shape Note/Degree Order

m7 - Shape 1

Type	1	5	b7	b3
Cm7	C	G	Bb	Eb
Fm7	F	C	Eb	Ab
Bbm7	Bb	F	Ab	Db
Ebm7	Eb	Bb	Db	Gb
G#m7	G#	D#	F#	B
C#m7	C#	G#	B	E
F#m7	F#	C#	E	A
Bm7	B	F#	A	D
Em7	E	B	D	G
Am7	A	E	G	C
Dm7	D	A	C	F
Gm7	G	D	F	Bb

m7 - Shape 2

Type	b3	b7	1	5
Cm7	Eb	Bb	C	G
Fm7	Ab	Eb	F	C
Bbm7	Db	Ab	Bb	F
Ebm7	Gb	Db	Eb	Bb
G#m7	B	F#	G#	D#
C#m7	E	B	C#	G#
F#m7	A	E	F#	C#
Bm7	D	A	B	F#
Em7	G	D	E	B
Am7	C	G	A	E
Dm7	F	C	D	A
Gm7	Bb	F	G	D

Chord Shape Note/Degree Order

m7 - Shape 3

Type	5	1	b3	b7
Cm7	G	C	Eb	Bb
Fm7	C	F	Ab	Eb
Bbm7	F	Bb	Db	Ab
Ebm7	Bb	Eb	Gb	Db
G#m7	D#	G#	B	F#
C#m7	G#	C#	E	B
F#m7	C#	F#	A	E
Bm7	F#	B	D	A
Em7	B	E	G	D
Am7	E	A	C	G
Dm7	A	D	F	C
Gm7	D	G	Bb	F

m7 - Shape 4

Type	b7	b3	5	1
Cm7	Bb	Eb	G	C
Fm7	Eb	Ab	C	F
Bbm7	Ab	Db	F	Bb
Ebm7	Db	Gb	Bb	Eb
G#m7	F#	B	D#	G#
C#m7	B	E	G#	C#
F#m7	E	A	C#	F#
Bm7	A	D	F#	B
Em7	D	G	B	E
Am7	G	C	E	A
Dm7	C	F	A	D
Gm7	F	Bb	D	G

Chord Shape Note/Degree Order

m7(b5) - Shape 1

Type	1	b5	b7	b3
Cm7(b5)	C	Gb	Bb	Eb
Fm7(b5)	F	B	Eb	Ab
A#m7(b5)	A#	E	G#	C#
D#m7(b5)	D#	A	C#	F#
G#m7(b5)	G#	D	F#	B
C#m7(b5)	C#	G	B	E
F#m7(b5)	F#	C	E	A
Bm7(b5)	B	F	A	D
Em7(b5)	E	Bb	D	G
Am7(b5)	A	Eb	G	C
Dm7(b5)	D	Ab	C	F
Gm7(b5)	G	Db	F	Bb

m7(b5) Shape 2

Type	b3	b7	1	b5
Cm7(b5)	Eb	Bb	C	Gb
Fm7(b5)	Ab	Eb	F	B
A#m7(b5)	C#	G#	A#	E
D#m7(b5)	F#	C#	D#	A
G#m7(b5)	B	F#	G#	D
C#m7(b5)	E	B	C#	G
F#m7(b5)	A	E	F#	C
Bm7(b5)	D	A	B	F
Em7(b5)	G	D	E	Bb
Am7(b5)	C	G	A	Eb
Dm7(b5)	F	C	D	Ab
Gm7(b5)	Bb	F	G	Db

Chord Shape Note/Degree Order

m7(b5) - Shape 3

Type	b5	1	b3	b7
Cm7(b5)	Gb	C	Eb	Bb
Fm7(b5)	B	F	Ab	Eb
A#m7(b5)	E	A#	C#	G#
D#m7(b5)	A	D#	F#	C#
G#m7(b5)	D	G#	B	F#
C#m7(b5)	G	C#	E	B
F#m7(b5)	C	F#	A	E
Bm7(b5)	F	B	D	A
Em7(b5)	Bb	E	G	D
Am7(b5)	Eb	A	C	G
Dm7(b5)	Ab	D	F	C
Gm7(b5)	Db	G	Bb	F

m7(b5) - Shape 4

Type	b7	b3	b5	1
Cm7(b5)	Bb	Eb	Gb	C
Fm7(b5)	Eb	Ab	B	F
A#m7(b5)	G#	C#	E	A#
D#m7(b5)	C#	F#	A	D#
G#m7(b5)	F#	B	D	G#
C#m7(b5)	B	E	G	C#
F#m7(b5)	E	A	C	F#
Bm7(b5)	A	D	F	B
Em7(b5)	D	G	Bb	E
Am7(b5)	G	C	Eb	A
Dm7(b5)	C	F	Ab	D
Gm7(b5)	F	Bb	Db	G