

Chord Construction Cheat Sheet

Triads & Seventh Chords

Triads

Chord	Character	Intervals	Example Chord
Major Triad	Happy & Pure	1 - 3 - 5	Cmaj (C - E - G)
Minor Triad	Sad & Melancholy	1 - b3 - 5	Cm (C - Eb - G)
Diminished Triad	Unstable & Tense	1 - b3 - b5	Cdim (C - Eb - Gb)
Augmented Triad	Unstable & Tense	1 - 3 - #5	Caug (C - E - G#)
Suspended 2nd Triad	Unstable & Airy	1 - 2 - 5	Csus2 (C - D - G)
Suspended 4th Triad	Unstable & Airy	1 - 4 - 5	Csus4 (C - F - G)

Triad Inversions

Inversion	Interval Order	Example Chord	Chord Name
Root Position	1 - 3 - 5	C E G	Cmaj
First Inversion	3 - 5 - 1	E G C	Cmaj/E
Second Inversion	5 - 1 - 3	G C E	Cmaj/G

Seventh Chords

Seventh Chord	Character	Intervals	Example Chord	Common Extensions
Major Seventh	Happy	1 - 3 - 5 - 7	Cmaj7 (C E G B)	9, #11 (Lydian), 13
Minor Seventh	Sad	1 - b3 - 5 - b7	Cm7 (C Eb G Bb)	9, 11, 13
Dominant Seventh	Tense & Unstable	1 - 3 - 5 - b7	C7 (C E G Bb)	9, 11, 13
Minor/Major Seventh	Tense & Mysterious	1 - b3 - 5 - 7	Cm/maj7 (C Eb G B)	
Minor Seventh Flat 5	Dark & Tense	1 - b3 - b5 - b7	Cm7b5 (C Eb Gb Bb)	
Diminished Seventh	Very Dark & Tense	1 - b3 - b5 - bb7	Cdim7 (C Eb G A)	
Augmented Seventh	Unsettled	1 - 3 - #5 - b7	Caug7 (C E G# Bb)	

Seventh Chord Inversions

Inversion	Interval Order	Example Chord	Chord Name
Root Position	1 - 3 - 5 - 7	C E G B	Cmaj7
First Inversion	3 - 5 - 7 - 1	E G B C	Cmaj7/E
Second Inversion	5 - 7 - 1 - 3	G B C E	Cmaj7/G
Third Inversion	7 - 1 - 3 - 5	B C E G	Cmaj7/B

Extended Chords

Added Tone Chords

Chord	Character	Intervals	Example Chord
Major 6	Calm	1 - 3 - 5 - 6	C6 (C E G A)
Minor 6	Uneasy	1 - b3 - 5 - 6	Cm6 (C Eb G A)
6/9	Complex & Jazzy	1 - 3 - 5 - 6 - 9	C6/9 (C E G A D)
Minor 6/9	Complex & Jazzy	1 - b3 - 5 - 6 - 9	Cm6/9 (C Eb G A D)
Major Add 9	Airy	1 - 3 - 5 - 9	Cmajadd9 (C E G D)
Minor Add 9	Spooky	1 - b3 - 5 - 9	Cmadd9 (C Eb G D)

9th Chords

Chord	Character	Intervals	Example Chord
Major 9	Happy	1 - 3 - 7 - 9	Cmaj9 (C E B D)
Minor 9	Sad	1 - b3 - b7 - 9	Cm9 (C Eb Bb D)
Minor/Major 9	'Spy Movie' Chord	1 - b3 - 7 - 9	Cm/maj9 (C Eb B D)
Dominant 9	Tense	1 - 3 - b7 - 9	C9 (C E Bb D)
Dominant7#9	'Hendrix' Chord	1 - 3 - b7 - #9	C7#9 (C E Bb D#)

11th & 13th Chords

Chord	Character	Intervals	Example Chord
Major 11	Happy	1 - 7 - 9 - 11	Cmaj11 (C B D F)
Minor 11	Sad	1 - b3 - b7 - 9 - 11	Cm11 (C Eb Bb D F)
Dominant 11	Tense	1 - b7 - 9 - 11	C11 (C Bb D F)
Major 13	Happy	1 - 3 - 7 - 13	Cmaj13 (C E B A)
Minor 13	Sad	1 - b3 - b7 - 13	Cm13 (C Eb Bb A)
Dominant 13	Tense	1 - 3 - b7 - 13	C13 (C E Bb A)

