



Diminished chords and scale tone chords

Diminished chords add a lot of tension and colour to chord progressions. They are usually used as “passing chords” i.e. A chord that you use to get to another chord.

A Diminished chord has the following notes

So a C diminished chord would have the following notes

1 b3 b5 6
C Eb G A

C major Chord

E			5		
B					3
G					8
D					5
A			1		
E					

C diminished chord

E					
B					b3
G		6			
D					b5
A			1		
E					

Remember how a Cmajor Scale has the following notes C D E F G A B (C)
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (8)

Well you can build a chord on each scale note. These chords are given a Roman numeral and are called “**Scale tone Chords**”

t=tone=2 frets st=semitone=1 fret

As you can see, in the key of C, the seventh chord is a B diminished chord. Try playing these chords in ascending order.

For help with this see my “**scale tone chord**” lesson” in the fretboard fluency section and the “**Useful Chord Shapes**” in the chord chemistry section of my website lessons.