



# Seventh Chords

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Chords .

Major 7ths are happy sounding chords.

Dominant 7ths are very strong sounding often found in Blues Music.

Minor 7ths are sad like minor chords but more interesting.

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)

To make a Cmajor chord you take the 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> notes of the scale: C E G

All you do to make a major 7<sup>th</sup> chord is you add the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the scale: C E G B

**Cmajor** becomes **Cmajor7**

E			5			
B						3
G						8
D						5
A						
E			1			

E			5			
B						3
G					7	
D						5
A						
E			1			

Here you can see that by lowering the C (8) to a B (7) you get all the notes you need for a major 7 chord 1 3 5 7 or C E G B.

**C major** becomes **C 7 or C dominant 7**

E			5			
B						3
G						8
D						5
A						
E			1			

E			5			
B						3
G					b7	
D						5
A						
E			1			

A Dominant 7 is a major chord with a flattened 7th. So basically you move the 7<sup>th</sup> in a major7 chord down a half step. So you get 1 3 5 b7, C E G Bb.

# Seventh Chords continued



To make a minor 7<sup>th</sup> chord, you take a minor chord eg Cminor and add a flattened 7.  
 Don't forget that a minor chord is like a major chord with a flattened 3rd.

1	b3	5	b7
C	E <sub>b</sub>	G	B <sub>b</sub>

## Cmajor

E			5		
B					3
G					8
D					5
A					
E		1			

## C minor

E			5		
B				b3	
G					8
D					5
A					
E		1			

becomes

## Cminor7

E			5		
B				b3	
G			b7		
D					5
A					
E		1			

Below are a few chord progressions using 7<sup>th</sup> chords. The best way to understand chords is to hear them at work. Aim to Play each chord for 2 beats. Obviously start slow and build up.

1 Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 Fmaj7 Dm7 Em7 Cmaj7 Cmaj7

2 Cmaj7 Dm7 Em7 Fmaj7 G7 Am7 Cmaj7