

# The "Seven" Chord

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The "seven" chord is made by adding another tone to the standard three tone chord. In addition to Root, 3rd, and 5th, we have the interval of a 7th. We already have names like Minor and Major referring to the 3rd, now we have to name the seventh too! This gives us even more names for chords.

Piano

A musical score for piano in C major, showing eight measures of Major 7th chords. The chords are: G7, A7, C7, D7, E7, F7, Bb7, and B7. Each chord is shown in the bass clef with its constituent notes (Root, 3rd, 5th, 7th) indicated by stems and accidentals.

The chords above are all Major 3rd's. From now on Major chords will be called only by letter name. C, G, and D would be assumed to be major. Measure the distance from the 5th to the 7th. If it a minor interval we will just call it "7".

These chords have a Minor 3rd. So we will call the chord with or without the seven "minor". Cm, Gm, and Dm tell us the 3rd is minor. If the 7th is minor we still just call it "7". Thus names like Gm7, Am7, and Cm7.

A musical score for piano in C major, showing six measures of Minor 7th chords. The chords are: Gm7, Am7, Cm7, Dm7, Em7, and Fm7. Each chord is shown in the bass clef with its constituent notes (Root, minor 3rd, 5th, 7th) indicated by stems and accidentals.

The chords below have TWO major intervals. The 3rd is major. The distance from the Perfect 5th to the 7th is also major. So we call the triad G or A (because it is a major 3rd) and we call the 7th "maj 7" because it is major also. now we have names like Gmaj7, Amaj7, Cmaj7 etc.

A musical score for piano in C major, showing eleven measures of Major 7th chords. The chords are: Gmaj7, Amaj7, Cmaj7, Dmaj7, Emaj7, Fmaj7, Bbmaj7, Ebmaj7, Abmaj7, Gbmaj7, and Dbmaj7. Each chord is shown in the bass clef with its constituent notes (Root, 3rd, 5th, 7th) indicated by stems and accidentals.

Remember when you need to "build" a chord to think of each not in the following order, to avoid confusion.

Root - perfect 5th - 3rd or minor 3rd - 7th or major 7th (the 3rd is assumed major, the 7th is assumed minor)