

The Five Basic Ninth Chords

Here are five basic ninth chords, where the ninth is added to each of the five basic seventh chords.

The Major-Ninth is formed by the root, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th of the major scale. This is a major-seventh chord with a ninth. The ninth is also the second note in the major scale that the chord is based on. The chord symbols are CMaj9, CMa9, CM9, and CΔ9.

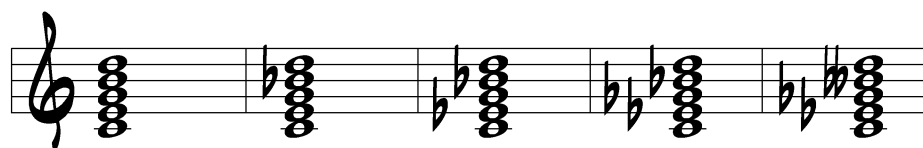
The Dominant-Ninth is formed by the root, 3rd, 5th, b7th, and 9th of the major scale. This is a dominant-seventh chord with a ninth. The chord symbol is C9.

The Minor-Ninth is formed by the root, b3rd, 5th, b7th, and 9th of the major scale. This is a minor-seventh chord with a ninth. The chord symbols are Cmin9, Cmi9, Cm9, and C-9.

The Minor-Ninth Flatted-Fifth or Half-Diminished Ninth is formed by the root, b3rd, b5th, b7th, and 9th of the major scale. This is a minor-seventh flatted-fifth chord with a ninth. Notice that since the fifth is altered in this chord (not the fifth in the major scale), it is placed *after* the extension, the ninth, which is unaltered (indigenous to the major scale). The chord symbols are Cmin9b5, Cmi9b5, Cm9b5, C-9b5 and CØ9.

The Diminished-Seventh Add Ninth is formed by the root, b3rd, b5th, bb7th, and 9th of the major scale. This is a diminished seventh chord with a ninth. For clarity, this chord symbol is sometimes written as Co7add9, otherwise it might be interpreted as a diminished triad with a ninth. The chord symbols for this chord are Co7add9 and Cdim7add9.

CMaj9 C9 Cmin9 Cmin9b5 Co7add9



The image shows five chord voicings on a treble clef staff. Each chord is represented by a vertical stack of notes with accidentals. CMaj9 consists of C, E, G, Bb, D. C9 consists of C, Eb, G, Bb, D. Cmin9 consists of C, Eb, G, Bb, D. Cmin9b5 consists of C, Eb, Fb, Bb, D. Co7add9 consists of C, Eb, Fb, Bbb, D.