

# The Five Basic Seventh Chords

Seventh chords are chords consisting of *four* notes. These chords add a fourth note, the seventh, to the triad. The five, basic, essential seventh chords are described below. Each of these five chord qualities serve as a foundation to a large category of many chords.

The Major-Seventh is formed by the root, 3rd, 5th, and 7th of the major scale. This is a major triad with a major seventh. The chord symbols are CMaj7, CMa7, CM7, and CΔ7.

The Dominant-Seventh is formed by the root, 3rd, 5th, and b7 of the major scale. This is a major triad with a minor seventh. The chord symbol is C7.

The Minor-Seventh is formed by the root, b3rd, 5th, and b7th of the major scale. This is a minor triad with a minor seventh. The chord symbols are Cmin7, Cmi7, Cm7, and C-7.

The Half-Diminished or Minor-Seven Flatted-Fifth is formed by the root, b3rd, b5th, and b7th of the major scale. This is a diminished triad with a minor seventh. The chord symbols are Cmin7b5, Cmi7b5, Cm7b5, and CØ

The Diminished Seventh is formed using the root, b3rd, b5th, and bb7th of the major scale. The bb7 lowers the major seventh two half-steps. This is a diminished triad with a diminished seventh. The chord symbols are Co7 and Cdim7.

CMaj7      C7      Cmin7      Cmin7b5      Co7



The image shows five C7 chords written on a single treble clef staff. Each chord is represented by a vertical stack of four notes. The first chord, CMaj7, has notes C4, E4, G4, and Bb4. The second, C7, has notes C4, E4, G4, and F4. The third, Cmin7, has notes C4, Eb4, G4, and Bb4. The fourth, Cmin7b5, has notes C4, Eb4, Fb4, and Bb4. The fifth, Co7, has notes C4, Eb4, Fb4, and Gb4.