

Seventh Chords

Seventh chords are triads with the addition of an additional note which is found a seventh above the root creating a four note chord. See Example #1 and #2.

Example #1

Triads in the key of C



Example #2

Seventh Chords in the key of C

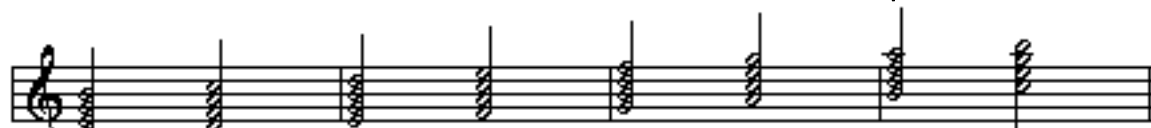


Seventh chords are more difficult to categorize than triads because they have more intervals to analyze. The three most common seventh chords are: Major 7ths (Maj 7), Minor 7ths (Min 7), and Dominant 7ths (7). A major 7th chord is a major triad with the addition of a major third interval (+3) from the 5th of the chord to the 7th of the chord, a minor 7th chord is a minor triad with the addition of a minor third interval (-3) from the 5th of the chord to the 7th of the chord, a dominant 7th chord is a major triad with the addition of a minor third interval (-3) from the 5th of the chord to the 7th of the chord.

Example #2 shows these 7th chords built on notes in the C scale.

Example #2

+3 G to B -3 A to C -3 B to D +3 C to E -3 D to F -3 E to G ↓ we don't study this one



Maj 7 Min 7 Min 7 Maj 7 Dom 7 Min 7 Maj 7

Chord Practice #2

In the example below determine whether the seventh chords are major, minor, or dominant

