

Seventh Chords

CMaj⁷ (or C^{Δ7} CM⁷) C⁷

MAJOR 7th = MAJOR triad + MAJOR 7th
 This is an extension of a major triad and has the seventh note of the major scale in it. (It is the chord built on the 1st note in the harmonised major scale)

DOMINANT 7th = MAJOR triad + MINOR 7th
 (It is the chord built on the 5th (dominant) note in the harmonised major scale and is the sound of the 5 chord in a 5-1 perfect cadence)

Cm⁷ (or C⁻⁷ Cmin⁷) Cm⁷b⁵ (or C^ø)

MINOR 7th = MINOR triad + MINOR 7th
 (It is the chord built on the 2nd, 3rd or 6th note in the harmonised major scale)

MINOR 7, b5 = DIMINISHED triad + MINOR 7th
 This is also called half diminished. (It is the chord built on the 7th note in the harmonised major scale)

How to Build/Identify 7th chords:

To build - work out the notes needed for a major 7th chord (using same rules as triad building, working out the key signature of the bottom note or root of the triad) and raise or lower the 3rd, 5th & 7th as needed.

To identify - using bottom note as root work out what a maj7th would be & compare the differences.

Build the following 7th chords:

Dm⁷ G⁷ Am⁷b⁵ B^bmaj⁷

Fm⁷ Cm⁷b⁵ B⁷ E^bmaj⁷

Identify the following 7th chords: