

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

G7 A7 C7 D7 E7 F7 Bb7 B7

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.

Gm7 Am7 Cm7 Dm7 Em7 Fm7

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.

Gmaj7 Amaj7 Cmaj7 Dmaj7 Emaj7 Fmaj7 Bbmaj7 Ebmaj7 Abmaj7 Gbmaj7 Dbmaj7

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)