

Essential Chord Types (7th Chords)

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Arranged by

6th String Root

	Cmaj7	C7	Cm7	Cm7(b5)	C°7
T	8	8	8	7	7
A	9	9	8	8	8
B	9	8	8	8	7
	8	8	8	8	8

5th String Root

	Cmaj7	C7	Cm7	Cm7(b5)	C°7
T	5	0	4	4	4
A	4	3	3	3	2
B	5	5	5	4	4
	3	3	3	3	3

These essential 7th chord shapes will allow you to read through most jazz lead sheets..
The chords will allow you to "comp" or accompany through jazz standards.

When learning these chords:

Use the fingerings most comfortable for you.

All of the examples are typically played with the index finger on the root with exceptions for the C-7b5 (half diminished) , Co7 (fully diminished 7th) chords, and Cm7

For the 6th string root C-7b5 use your middle finger.

For the 6th string root Cm7 use your middle finger and barre your ring finger.

For the 5th string root Co7 use your middle finger.

To further understand what you are playing:

The 6th string root chords follow the interval formula: 1, 7, 3, 5

The 5th string root chords follow the interval formula: 1, 5, 7, 3

These are the order of the scale degrees from the bottom of the chord to the top.

The alteration of these scale degrees is what results in different chords.

Example: Cmaj7 to C7 the 9th fret on the D string is lowered to the 8th fret.

The B note to a Bb note. The 7th scale degree is lowered to a flattened 7th.

When practicing each chord say the chord name aloud for the corresponding chord:

C major seven, C dominant seven, C minor seven, C minor seven flat 5 or C half diminished, C diminished 7 or C fully diminished 7)

It is advised to practice these shapes to a metronome and to recite the note names or intervals in time to quarter notes filling a whole bar (4 notes per chord).

Move the bass notes of the chord through all 12 keys through any cycle you want.

Example: 4ths. (C, F, Bb, Eb, etc.).

Jazz standard examples that can be played using only these chords:

Blue Bossa, Softly as in a Morning Sunrise, Summertime, or Blues.

Understanding the where these chords naturally occur in harmonized scales

Diatonic Major

Maj7: I, IV chord

Min7: ii, iii, vi chord

Dom7: V chord

Min7b5: vii chord