

SEVENTH CHORDS

MAJOR, MINOR AND DOMINANT

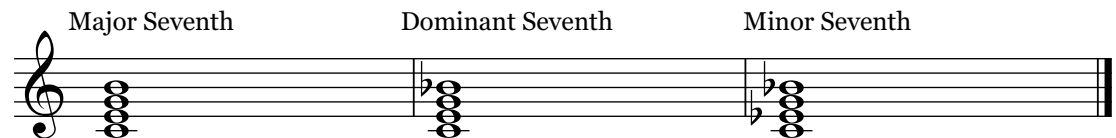
THEORY WORKSHEETS

BROCK CHART

SEVENTH CHORDS

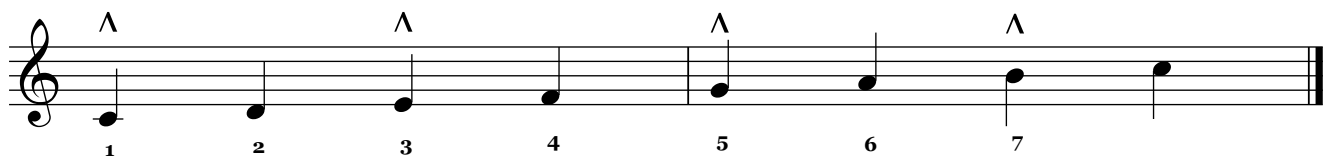
Now that we have a good understanding of constructing triads, let's move on to seventh chords.

There are three type of seventh chords we'll be looking at:
Major Sevenths, Dominant Sevenths, and Minor Sevenths.



Like our triads, we'll be constructing seventh chords from major scales.

Always start with building the triad first, then figure out the seventh afterwards.



Major Sevenths

The major seventh chord is constructed from scale degrees: 1 - 3 - 5 - 7.

It is the only seventh chord without any alterations. The notes naturally occur in the major scale.

Major Seventh

Like triads, people can write seventh chords differently depending on their background and preference. Here are a few examples of what a Major Seventh would look like:

C Major 7

C MA 7

CM7

C^Δ ← This is my personal preference.

C Maj 7

It's easy to see and the only chord type that uses the delta sign (triangle)

Practice writing out Major Sevenths chords in the following keys:

D^Δ G^Δ B^{bΔ} F^Δ

A^Δ E^{bΔ} A^{bΔ} E^Δ

Dominant Sevenths

The dominant seventh chord is constructed from scale degrees: 1 - 3 - 5 - $\flat 7$.

Dominant seventh chords can be thought of as Major triads with a lowered seventh.

Sometimes there is confusion with the name "Dominant Sevenths". For our purposes, Dominant Sevenths have nothing to do with the Tonic - Dominant relationship of a key.

Dominant Seventh

Dominant Sevenths are a little harder to identify in the real world:

If a chord is followed by a number that is a Seven or higher without any other symbol or marking, it is a Dominant Seventh.

(We will see chords like C₉ and C₁₃ in future chapters. They are also Dominant Sevenths)

C⁷

Practice writing out Dominant Sevenths chords in the following keys:

G⁷ F⁷ D⁷ B^{b7}

A⁷ E^{b7} A^{b7} E⁷

Minor Sevenths

The minor seventh chord is constructed from scale degrees: 1 - $\flat 3$ - 5 - $\flat 7$.

Minor seventh chords can be thought of as Minor triads with a lowered seventh.

Minor Seventh

Minor sevenths can be seen a few different ways:

C min 7

Cm7

C-7

Practice writing out Minor Sevenths chords in the following keys:

Dm⁷ Gm⁷ Bbm⁷ Fm⁷

Am⁷ Ebm⁷ Cm⁷ Em⁷