

Common Chord Notation

There are many ways in which to notate a chord. The chords in this book are in a uniform notation, listed in the far left column. The next column is the “shorthand” version of chord symbols that are used in some of the lesson explanations. In addition, there are three lead sheet publishers listed as a reference, as well as an “other” column.

Chord	Shorthand	Aebersold	Real Book 6 th Ed.	New Real Book	Other
TRIADS					
CMaj	C	C Δ	C	C	CM, CMA
Cmin	C-, c	C-	C-	CMI	Cm
C $^{\circ}$	C $^{\circ}$	C $^{\circ}$	C $^{\circ}$	C $^{\circ}$	Cdim
CAug	C+	C+	C+	C(#5)	-
Csus	C4	Csus4	Csus4	Csus	-
SIXTH CHORDS					
C6	C6	C6	C6	C6	-
Cmin6	C-6	C-6	C-6	CMI6	Cm6, Cmi6,
Cmin(b6)	C-b6	C-b6	C-b6	CMI(b6)	Cmi(b6)
SEVENTH CHORDS					
CMaj7	CM7	C Δ 7	Cmaj7	CMA7	-
C7	C7	C7	C7	C7	-
Cmin7	C-7	C-7	C-7	CMI7	Cm7, Cmi7
C \emptyset	C \emptyset	C \emptyset	C-7(b5)	CMI7(b5)	Cmin7(b5)
C $^{\circ}$ 7	C $^{\circ}$ 7	C $^{\circ}$ 7	C $^{\circ}$ 7	C $^{\circ}$ 7	Cdim7
Csus7	Csus7	Csus7	C7sus4	C7sus	-
C7Alt	C7+	C7+	C7#5	C7(alt.)	-
CMaj(b5)	CM(b5)	CM(b5)	Cmaj(b5)	CMA(b5)	CMA(b5)
Cmin(Maj7)	C-(Δ 7)	C-(Δ 7)	C-(maj7)	CMI(MA7)	-
CHORD EXTENSIONS					
CMaj9	CM9	C Δ 9	Cmaj9	CMA9	CMA9
C9	C9	C9	C9	C9	-
Cmin9	C-9	C-9	C-9	CMI9	Cm9, Cmi9
CMaj11	CM11	C Δ 11	Cmaj11	CMA9(add 11)	CMA11
C11	C11	C11	C11	C11	-
Cmin11	C-11	C-11	C-11	CMI9(add 11)	Cm11, Cmi11
CMaj13	CM13	C Δ 13	Cmaj13	CMA9(add 13)	CMA13
C13	C13	C13	C13	C13	-
Cmin13	C-13	C-13	C-13	CMI9(add 13)	Cm13, Cmi13
CHORD ALTERATIONS					
C7(b9)	C7+9	C7+9	C7b9	C7(b9)	-
C7(#9)	C7+9	C7+9	C7#9	C7(#9)	-
CMaj9(#11)	CM9(#11)	C Δ 9(+4)	Cmaj9(#11)	CMA9(#11)	CM9(#11)...
C13(#11)	C13(#11)	C13(+4)	G13(#11)	C13(#11)	C13(b5)

*The more charts you play, the more familiar you will become with the coding of notations.