

Common Chord Spellings

Triads – stacking three notes together builds a triad. There are five common triads.

CMaj	Cmin	C°	CAug	Csus
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“Major” (1 3 5)	“Minor” (1 b3 5)	“Diminished” (1 b3 b5)	“Augmented” (1 3 #5)	“Suspended” (1 4 5)
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Sixth Chords – adding the sixth scale degree to a triad builds a sixth chord.

C6	Cmin6	Cmin(b6)
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“Major 6” (1 3 5 6)	“Minor 6” (1 b3 5 6)	“Minor Flat 6” (1 b3 5 b6)
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Seventh Chords – adding the seventh scale degree to a triad builds a seventh chord.

CMaj7	C7	Cmin7	C°	C°7
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“Major 7” (1 3 5 7)	“Dominant 7” (1 3 5 b7)	“Minor 7” (1 b3 5 b7)	“Half-Diminished” (1 b3 b5 b7)	“Whole-Diminished 7” (1 b3 b5 bb7)
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Seventh Chords (cont.) – changing one note builds other seventh chords.

C7sus	C7Alt	CMaj7(b5)	Cmin(Maj7)
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“Suspended Dominant 7” (1 4 5 b7)	“Altered Dominant 7” (1 3 #5 b7)	“Major 7 Flat 5” (1 3 b5 7)	“Minor Major 7” (1 b3 5 7)
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Chord Extensions – adding the ninth, eleventh, and thirteenth degrees forms extensions.

CMaj9	CMaj11	CMaj13	C ⁶ ₉	Csus9
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“Major 9” (1 3 5 7 9)	“Major 11” (1 3 5 7 9 11)	“Major 13” (1 3 5 7 9 11 13)	“Major 6 9” (1 3 5 6 9)	“Suspended 9” (1 4 5 7 9)
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Chord Alterations – raising/lowering extensions by a half step forms alterations.

C7(b9)	C7(#9)	CMaj9(#11)	C13(#11)
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“Dominant Flat 9” (1 3 5 b7 b9)	“Dominant Sharp 9” (1 3 5 b7 #9)	“Major 9 Sharp 11” (1 3 5 7 9 11 13)	“Dominant 13 Sharp 11” (1 3 5 b7 9 #11 13)
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