

Theory Sheet 9

Extending Chords To 7ths

In the same way that triads are built by taking three alternate notes from the major or minor scale, chords can be extended to 7th chords by taking four alternate notes from the major or minor scale.

There are four types of 7th chord:-

	Major 7,	Minor 7,	Dominant 7,	Minor 7 Flat 5,
Written from a C root note:-	Cmaj7	Cm7	C7	Cm7b5

There are two types of 7th interval, a major 7th and a minor 7th [b7]. When harmonising the scale the type of 7th depends on the interval between the 5th degree and the 7th degree. If the interval is 4 semitones [major 3rd] the 7th degree is a major 7th. If the interval between the 5th degree and 7th degree is 3 semitones [minor 3rd] the 7th degree is a minor 7th [b7].

The spellings for the 7th chords are:-

Major 7	[maj7]	1	3	5	7
Minor 7	[m7]	1	b3	5	b7
Dominant 7	[7]	1	3	5	b7
Minor 7b5	[m7b5]	1	b3	b5	b7

Major Keys

Degree	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
C major:-	Cmaj7	Dm7	Em7	Fmaj7	G7	Am7	Bm7b5
G major:-	Gmaj7	Am7	Bm7	Cmaj7	D7	Em7	F#m7b5
D major:-	Dmaj7	Em7	F#m7	Gmaj7	A7	Bm7	C#m7b5
F major:-	Fmaj7	Gm7	Am7	Bbmaj7	C7	Dm7	Em7b5

Minor Keys

Degree	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
A minor:-	Am7	Bm7b5	Cmaj7	Dm7	Em7	Fmaj7	G7
E minor:-	Em7	F#m7b5	Gmaj7	Am7	Bm7	Cmaj7	D7
B minor:-	Bm7	C#m7b5	Dmaj7	Em7	F#m7	Gmaj7	A7
D minor:-	Dm7	Em7b5	Fmaj7	Gm7	Am7	Bbmaj7	C7

Notice again that the chords in the major scale and their relative minors are the same.