

1. TECHNIQUE - CHORDS

The first type of chords that you are going to learn are **three note chords**.

Despite most chords typically having four notes, only three intervals are required for a basic chord which are the **root**, **third** and **seventh**.

There are three principal chord types in jazz that you need to know:

1. Major 7th Chords (R, 3, 7)
2. Dominant 7th Chords (R, 3, **b7**)
3. Minor 7th Chords (R, **b3**, b7)

Each of these chord types are used in jazz standards, chord melodies, comping, and chord solos.

Firstly, you will learn two-three note inversions for each of the chord types.

The first inversion has the root on the 6th string, and the second has the root on the 5th string, so you will learn six chord grips all together.

Learning all six of these chords will save you jumping across the fretboard to change to the next chord.

As a result of only learning six chords, you will be prepared for comping **almost any jazz standard** that is put in front of you.

Here are a few pointers to remember when learning the chords:

- Only strum the fretted strings.
- Choke or mute unwanted strings in each chord.
- Practise each of these chords in all 12 keys.
- Apply the chords to tunes that you know.

1. Major 7th Chords

Let's begin with major 7th chords.

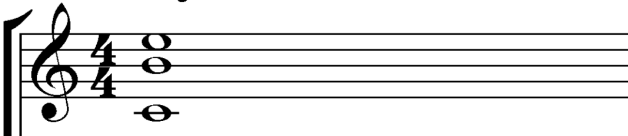
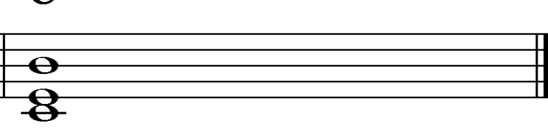
Symbols for major 7th chords are usually an abbreviated "**maj7**" or a **small triangle**, so both symbols are shown on the chord diagrams.

Besides knowing how to play the chords, you should also know what notes are underneath your fingers.

Knowing the notes of the chord will help you adapt the chords in tasteful ways as shown in the final etude.

Intervals for each chord are listed below:

Root on 6th String: R, 7, 3
Root on 5th String: R, 3, 7

Cmaj⁷	C^Δ
	
Root on 6th String	Root on 5th String
T	
A	4
B	2
	3
8	

2. Dominant 7th Chords

Secondly, let's look at dominant 7th chords.

Symbols for dominant 7 chords are either the number **7** or "**dom7**".

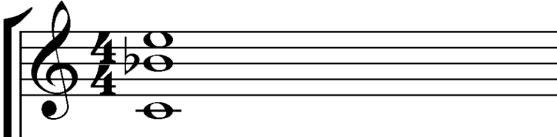
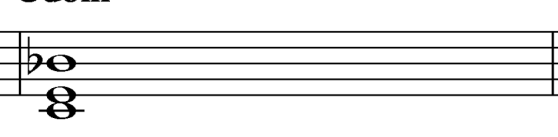
Both symbols are included on the chord diagram, so that you get familiar with each of them.

The interval formula for the two dominant 7th inversions is shown below.

Note that there is only one note difference from the major 7th chord, the seventh which is **flattened** in a dominant 7th chord.

In other words, the seventh is a semi-tone or one fret lower in dominant chords than it is in major 7th chords.

Root on 6th String: R, **b7**, 3
Root on 5th String: R, 3, **b7**

	C ⁷	Cdom ⁷
		
	Root on 6th String	Root on 5th String
T		
A	9	3
B	8	2
	8	3

3. Minor 7th Chords

Finally, let's learn two inversions for a three note minor 7 chord.

Symbols for minor 7th chords are either a lowercase "m" followed by the number 7 or a minus sign (-) then a seven.

Both of these minor 7th chord symbols are shown in the diagrams below.

Note that there is only one note difference between the minor 7 and the dominant 7 chord, the third which is **flattened** in minor 7th chords.

The interval formula for the two inversions are:

Root on 6th String: R, b7, b3
Root on 5th String: R, b3 , b7

The image shows musical notation for two minor 7th chords. The first chord is Cm7, labeled 'Root on 6th String'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The notes are C (root), Bb (b7), and Eb (b3). The second chord is C-7, labeled 'Root on 5th String'. The notes are C (root), Eb (b3), and Bb (b7). Below the notation is a guitar tablature section with three lines labeled T, A, and B. For Cm7, the fret numbers are 8, 8, 8. For C-7, the fret numbers are 3, 1, 3.