

# Chord Construction: How to Create Chords

There are four main chord types found in jazz:

1. major 7th
2. dominant 7th
3. minor 7th
4. minor 7b5

Two notes played separately are called melodic intervals and two played together are called harmonic intervals because harmony is produced

## Constructing Chords From The Major Scale

C Major Scale

Melodic Interval      Harmonic Interval

The diagram illustrates the construction of chords from the C major scale. It shows the C major scale notes (C, D, E, F, G, A, B) and how they are grouped into chords. The fretboard diagrams show the following chord shapes:

- C Major Scale:** C (C4), D (D4), E (E4), F (F4), G (G4), A (A4), B (B4)
- Intervals:** Melodic (C, E), Harmonic (C, E)
- Chords:** C (C4), Cmaj7 (C4, E4, G4, B4), C7 (C4, E4, G4, Bb4), Cm7 (C4, Eb4, G4, Bb4), Cm7b5 (C4, Eb4, Gb4, Bb4)

The musical staff shows the C major scale in 4/4 time, with notes C, E, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B. Chord symbols are placed below the staff: C, Cmaj7, C7, Cm7, Cm7b5. Fretboard diagrams are shown above the staff for each chord.

## Common Jazz Guitar Grips

The diagram shows common jazz guitar grips for four chords. Each grip is shown with a fretboard diagram and a musical staff representation. The grips are:

- Cmaj7:** Fret 3, strings 2, 3, 4, 5. (X marks on strings 1 and 6)
- C7:** Fret 3, strings 2, 3, 4, 5. (X marks on strings 1 and 6)
- Cm7:** Fret 3, strings 2, 3, 4, 5. (X marks on strings 1 and 6)
- Cm7b5:** Fret 3, strings 2, 3, 4, 5. (X marks on strings 1 and 6)

## Common Chord Symbols

- Major 7th Chords = Δ or Maj7
- Dominant 7th Chords = 7 or Dom7
- Minor 7th Chords = m7 or Min7
- Minor 7b5 Chords = m7b5 or ø7