

Chord Lesson

- This lesson will cover basic chord construction through the use of triads and their extensions. A triad is a chord composed of three notes. For the purposes of this lesson, all chords discussed will be notated in the key of “C”. Keep in mind however, in jazz, the rules taught in this lesson apply to all key signatures.
 - See Example 01
- There are four basic types of triads and one chord that is a variation on a basic triad that has become more popular since the 1970s
 - Major
 - Minor
 - Diminished
 - Augmented
 - Sus4
 - Sus4 is a variation of a basic triad
 - See Example 02
- A Major Triad is composed of the 1st, 3rd, & 5th notes of a major scale.
- The composition of a Minor Triad can be looked at in two different ways. The first option is that it consists of the 1st, 3rd, & 5th notes of a minor scale. The second way to think of it would be the 1st, ^b3rd, & 5th notes of a major scale.
- An Augmented Triad is a Major Triad with the 5th raised a ½ step.
- A Diminished Triad is a Minor Triad with the 5th lowered a ½ step.

- A Sus4 Chord is a Major or Minor Triad in which the 4th scale step replaces the 3rd.
 - In essence, the 4th is *suspended* from its resolution to the 3rd.
- There are six types of 7th chords:
 - See the Chart below as well as Example 03

<u>Type of 7th Chord</u>	<u>Tones of the Major Scale</u>
Major	1, 3, 5, 7
Dominant	1, 3, 5, ^b 7
Augmented	1, 3, #5, ^b 7
Minor	1, ^b 3, 5, ^b 7
Half-Diminished	1, ^b 3, ^b 5, ^b 7
Diminished	1, ^b 3, ^b 5, ^{bb} 7

- Nomenclature refers to the labeling and identification of the various chord types. Unfortunately, there is no one chord symbol for each type of chord that is universally agreed upon as the best. The following chart shows a recommended choice of chord symbols for each type of 7th chord plus several variations that are commonly used.

- See the Chart below as well as Example 04

<u>Type of 7th Chord</u>	<u>Recommended Symbol</u>	<u>Variations</u>
C Major 7 th	C Maj7	CM7, Cma7, C [^] , C7
C Dominant 7 th	C7	C ^b 7
C Augmented 7 th	C aug7	C7 (#5), C+7, C7 (+5)
C Minor 7 th	C min7	Cm7, Cmi7, C-7
C Half-Diminished 7 th	C min7 (^b 5)	C ^ø 7
C Diminished 7 th	C dim7	C ^o 7, Cd7