



Seventh Chords

Adding one more note to a triad

A seventh chord is a triad plus one extra note — the 7th degree of the scale. That single added note creates richer colour and stronger movement. Most modern music relies heavily on seventh chords.

The four most common seventh chords

Type	Formula	Example in C	Sound / use
Major 7	1 3 5 7	C E G B	Warm, jazzy, dreamy
Dominant 7	1 3 5 b7	C E G Bb	Tense, bluesy, strong pull
Minor 7	1 b3 5 b7	C Eb G Bb	Smooth, soulful, mellow
Half-diminished	1 b3 b5 b7	C Eb Gb Bb	Dark, tense, jazz

C major 7, dominant 7 and minor 7 stacked

B	7
G	5
E	3
C	1

Cmaj7
1 3 5 7

Bb	b7
G	5
E	3
C	1

C7
1 3 5 b7

Bb	b7
G	5
Eb	b3
C	1

Cm7
1 b3 5 b7

Why the dominant 7 is so important

The dominant 7 (V7) contains a tritone (the most dissonant interval). This creates strong tension that wants to resolve to the tonic (I). That is why G7 → C feels so satisfying, and why dominant 7 chords appear in blues, jazz, rock and classical music.

Look back at the Chord Interval Chart — every seventh chord formula is already there (Major7, Dominant7, Minor7, etc.).