

READING CHORD CHANGES

In major keys, we find four main types of seventh chords: Major 7, Minor 7, Dominant 7, and Half-diminished 7. These are built respectively from the 1st and 4th; 2nd, 3rd, and 6th; 5th; and 7th scale degrees. You will certainly encounter others but these are the types that naturally (i.e. without accidentals) occur in any given major key. All of these types can be built from the tonic scale (I) in any major key. Common symbols are shown below each chord.

MAJOR 7 Chords (built from the major scale of the same name)

Musical notation showing four Major 7 chords: CΔ7, FΔ7, GΔ7, and BbΔ7. Each chord is represented by a two-staff system (treble and bass clef) with a key signature and a scale of notes. The notes for each chord are: CΔ7 (C, E, G, Bb), FΔ7 (F, Ab, C, Eb), GΔ7 (G, B, D, F), and BbΔ7 (Bb, D, F, Ab).

MINOR 7 Chords (built from major scale one whole step below)

Musical notation showing four Minor 7 chords: D-7, G-7, A-7, and C-7. Each chord is represented by a two-staff system (treble and bass clef) with a key signature and a scale of notes. The notes for each chord are: D-7 (D, F, Ab, C), G-7 (G, Bb, D, F), A-7 (A, C, Eb, G), and C-7 (C, Eb, G, Bb).

DOMINANT 7 Chords (built from the major scale 5 notes below)

Musical notation showing four Dominant 7 chords: G7, C7, D7, and F7. Each chord is represented by a two-staff system (treble and bass clef) with a key signature and a scale of notes. The notes for each chord are: G7 (G, B, D, F), C7 (C, Eb, G, Bb), D7 (D, F, Ab, C), and F7 (F, Ab, C, Eb).

HALF-DIMINISHED 7 Chords (built from the major scale a half step higher)

Musical notation showing four Half-diminished 7 chords: Bø7, Eø7, F#ø7, and Aø7. Each chord is represented by a two-staff system (treble and bass clef) with a key signature and a scale of notes. The notes for each chord are: Bø7 (B, D, F, Ab), Eø7 (E, G, Bb, D), F#ø7 (F#, Ab, C, Eb), and Aø7 (A, C, Eb, G).