

# Chord Families

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Most of the chords contained in jazz pieces can be placed in three main chord types: Major, Minor and Dominant chords. This chart illustrates most forms of these chords and the scales which accompany them.

## 1. MAJOR CHORDS (Maj7, Ma7, M7, Δ7)

C      C<sup>6</sup>      CMaj7      CMaj9      C<sup>6</sup>      CMaj7(#11)

major scale

lydian mode

major pentatonic scale

minor pentatonic scale (built half step below on seventh)

Detailed description: This section illustrates major chords and their associated scales. It begins with six chord diagrams on a treble clef staff: C (C4, E4, G4), C<sup>6</sup> (C4, E4, G4, A4), CMaj7 (C4, E4, G4, B4), CMaj9 (C4, E4, G4, B4, D5), C<sup>6</sup> (C4, E4, G4, A4, B4), and CMaj7(#11) (C4, E4, G4, B4, D5, F#5). Below the chords are five lines of musical notation for scales: the major scale (C4-D4-E4-F4-G4-A4-B4-C5), the Lydian mode (C4-D4-E4-F#4-G4-A4-B4-C5), the major pentatonic scale (C4-D4-E4-G4-A4), and the minor pentatonic scale (B3-C4-D4-E4-G4), which is described as being built half a step below the seventh of the major scale.

## 2. MINOR CHORDS (min7, mi7, m7, -7)

C m      C m<sup>6</sup>      C m7      C m9      C m11      C m13      C m7(b5)      C m(maj7)

dorian mode

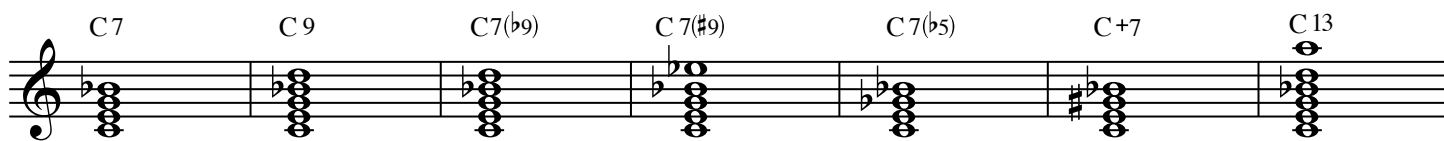
minor pentatonic built on root      minor pentatonic built on P5th      minor pentatonic built on M2nd

locrian mode for m7(b5)      harmonic minor for m(♯7)

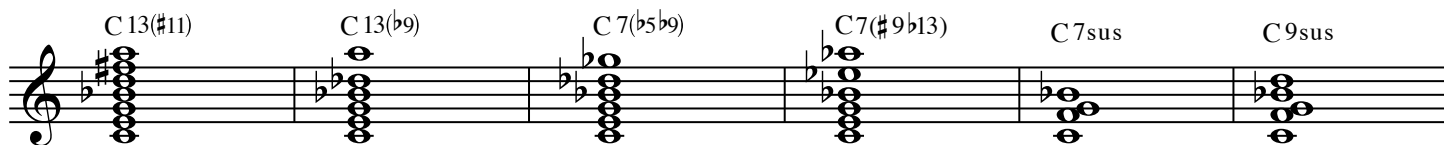
Detailed description: This section illustrates minor chords and their associated scales. It begins with eight chord diagrams on a treble clef staff: C m (C4, E4, G4, Bb4), C m<sup>6</sup> (C4, E4, G4, Ab4), C m7 (C4, E4, G4, Bb4), C m9 (C4, E4, G4, Bb4, Db5), C m11 (C4, E4, G4, Bb4, Db5, Eb5), C m13 (C4, E4, G4, Bb4, Db5, Eb5, Fb5), C m7(b5) (C4, E4, G4, Ab4, Bb4), and C m(maj7) (C4, E4, G4, Bb4, D5). Below the chords are four lines of musical notation for scales: the Dorian mode (C4-D4-E4-F4-G4-A4-Bb4-C5), three variations of the minor pentatonic scale (B3-C4-D4-E4-G4), and the Locrian mode for m7(b5) (C4-Db4-Eb4-F4-G4-Ab4-Bb4-C5) and the harmonic minor for m(♯7) (C4-D4-E4-F4-G4-Ab4-Bb4-C5).

### 3. DOMINANT SEVENTH CHORDS

C7      C9      C7(b9)      C7(#9)      C7(b5)      C+7      C13



C13(#11)      C13(b9)      C7(b5b9)      C7(#9b13)      C7sus      C9sus



mixolydian mode



lydian flat 7 scale




blues scale



bebop scale



whole tone scale



diminished scale (half/whole)



diminished whole tone scale

