

Chord Formula Charts

The following chart gives a comprehensive list of chord formulas, together with an example based on the **C Scale**:

CHORD NAME	CHORD FORMULA	EXAMPLE
Major	1 3 5	C: C E G
Suspended	1 4 5	Csus: C F G
Major add Ninth	1 3 5 9	Cadd9: C E G D
Minor	1 b3 5	Cm: C E ^b G
Augmented	1 3 #5	Caug: C E G [#]
Major Sixth	1 3 5 6	C6: C E G A
Major Sixth add Ninth	1 3 5 6 9	C6/9: C E G A D
Minor Sixth	1 b3 5 6	Cm6: C E ^b G A
Minor Sixth add Ninth	1 b3 5 6 9	Cm6/9: C E ^b G A D
Seventh	1 3 5 b7	C7: C E G B ^b
Seventh Suspended	1 4 5 b7	C7sus: C F G B ^b
Minor Seventh	1 b3 5 b7	Cm7: C E ^b G B ^b
Diminished Seventh	1 b3 b5 bb7	Cdim: C E ^b G ^b B ^{bb} (A)
Major Seventh	1 3 5 7	Cmaj7: C E G 7
Minor Major Seventh	1 b3 5 7	Cm(maj7): C E ^b G B
Ninth	1 3 5 b7 9	C9: C E G B ^b D
Minor Ninth	1 b3 5 b7 9	Cm9: C E ^b G B ^b D
Major Ninth	1 3 5 7 9	Cmaj9: C E G B D
Eleventh	1 3* 5 b7 9 11	C11: C E* G B ^b D F
Minor Eleventh	1 b3 5 b7 9 11	Cm11: C E ^b G B ^b D F
Thirteenth	1 3 5 b7 9 11* 13	C13: C E G B ^b D F* A
Minor Thirteenth	1 b3 5 b7 9 11* 13	Cm13: C E ^b G B ^b D F* A

*indicates that a note is optional.

The Altered Chord

This next chord chart features chords which have a slight alteration to one of the given formulae and are therefore called **altered chords**.

CHORD NAME	CHORD FORMULA	EXAMPLE
Major Flat Fifth	1 3 b5	Cb5: C E Gb
Minor Seventh Flat Fifth	1 b3 b5 b7	Cm7b5: C Eb Gb Bb
Seventh Sharp Fifth	1 3 #5 b7	C7#5: C E G# Bb
Seventh Flat Fifth	1 3 b5 b7	C7b5: C E Gb Bb
Seventh Sharp Ninth	1 3 5 b7 #9	C7#9: C E G Bb D#
Seventh Flat Ninth	1 3 5 b7 b9	C7b9: C E G Bb Db
Seventh Sharp Fifth Flat Ninth	1 3 #5 b7 b9	C7#5b9: C E G# Bb Db
Ninth Sharp Fifth	1 3 #5 b7 9	C9#5: C E G# Bb D
Ninth Flat Fifth	1 3 b5 b7 9	C9b5: C E Gb Bb D
Ninth Sharp Eleventh	1 3 5 b7 9 #11	C9#11: C E G Bb D F#
Minor Ninth Major Seventh	1 b3 5 7 9	Cm9(maj7): C Eb G B D
Thirteenth Flat Ninth	1 3 5 b7 b9 11* 13	C13: C E G Bb Db F* A
Thirteenth Flat Five Flat Ninth	1 3 b5 b7 b9 11* 13	C13b5b9: C E Gb Bb Db F* A

In altered chords, the notes to be altered are always written as part of the chord name, enabling you to construct the chord. For example, a **Cm7#5b9** (not listed above) is a **Cm7** chord with the fifth sharpened (**#5**) and the ninth flattened (**b9**). When you are working out a suitable shape for this chord, remember that the root note and/or the fifth note may be omitted.

Another type of alteration occurs when chord symbols are written thus:

Example 1: **G/F#** bass

This indicates that a **G** chord is played, but using an **F#** note in the bass.

Example 2: **C/G** bass

This indicates a **C** chord with a **G** bass note.

Sometimes the word 'bass' will not be written (i.e. the symbol will be just **G/F#**), but the same meaning is implied. These chords are often referred to as **slash chords**.

In sheet music notation, there is a lack of uniformity in writing chord symbols. For example the C major seven chord can be written as "Cmaj7" (used in this book), "CΔ7" or "CM7". The table below outlines the symbols used in this book, together with correct pronunciation and alternative symbols used for each chord type.

Symbols used in this Series	Name	Alternative Symbols
(None)	Major	Maj, M
sus	Suspended	sus4
-5	Major Flat Five	b5
add 9	Major Add Nine	
m	Minor	min, mi,
+	Augmented	#5, +5, aug
6	Major Six	Maj6, Δ6, M6
6/9	Major Six Add Nine	6(add9), $\frac{6}{9}$, Maj6(add9), M6(add9)
m6	Minor Six	mi6, min6
m6/9	Minor Six Add Nine	mi6(add9), min6(add9), m6(add9)
7	Dominant Seven (Seventh)	Dom7
7sus	Seven Suspended	sus7, 7sus4
m7	Minor Seven	mi7, min7
m7b5	Minor Seven Flat Five	ø7, $\frac{1}{2}$ dim7, mi7b5, min7b5, m7-5
o	Diminished Seven	ø7, dim7, -7, dim
7#5	Seven Sharp Five	+7, 7+5
7b5	Seven Flat Five	7-5
maj7	Major Seven	Δ7, M7
m(maj7)	Minor Major Seven	m(Maj7), m(Δ7), m(+7), mi(+7), min(+7)
7b9	Seven Flat Nine	7-9
7#5b9	Seven Sharp Five, Flat Nine	7+5-9
Maj9	Major Nine	Δ9, M9
m9	Minor Nine	mi9, min9, -9
9#5	Nine Sharp Five	+9, 9+5
9b5	Nine Flat Five	9-5
9#11	Nine Sharp Eleven	9+11
m9(maj7)	Minor Nine Major Seven	m9#7, min9#7, m9(Δ7), m9(Maj7), m9(M7)
m11	Minor Eleven	mi11, min11, -11
13	Thirteenth	M13, M7(add6)
13b9	Thirteen Flat Nine	13-9
13b5b9	Thirteen Flat Five Flat Nine	13-5-9
m13	Minor Thirteen	mi13, min13, m7(add6), -13

In sheet music, chord symbols that indicate a specific bass note to play are sometimes used. For example, C/G indicates a C chord with a G bass note (it may also be written C/G bass). The bass note will not always be a note of the chord; for example, Am/G is an A minor chord with a G bass note. This could also be called Am7.