

Seventh Chords

Music

The five seventh chords, what each one wants to do, and where it appears.

Add a seventh above a triad. Which seventh, and which triad, names the chord.

Chord	Built from	Feels
Major 7 (Cmaj7)	Major + major 7th	Warm, restful, jazzy
Dominant 7 (C7)	Major + minor 7th	Tense — wants to resolve
Minor 7 (Cm7)	Minor + minor 7th	Soft, mellow
Half-dim (Cm7^b5)	Dim + minor 7th	Unstable, leads to minor
Diminished 7 (C°7)	Dim + dim 7th	Maximum tension, goes anywhere

Every diminished 7th chord is three other diminished 7ths in disguise — it splits the octave evenly.