

Music Chords

20-May-06

Basic Chord

1 and 3 and 5 (can include 8)
The 1 and 8 (or any octaves of this note) are considered the root.

Can be in any order ... a C chord, (typically a C, E, and G) could be a G, then a C, then an E.

In general, only roots and 5ths are played as the lower notes (See pure tone scale discussion).

Minor Chord

Drop the 3rd a half step.
All 3rd's in the chord must be dropped.

Sustained Chord

Raise the 3rd a half step.
All 3rd's in the chord must be raised.

7th Chord

Drop the root (8) a whole step.
Not all roots must be dropped. Is an added note to the chord.

Major 7th Chord

Drop the root (8) a half step. Not all roots must be dropped. Is an added note to the chord

For a Scale

intervals between notes

Num of
steps

1

2 whole

3 whole

4 half

5 whole

6 whole

7 whole

8 half

Key of	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
C	1 C	2 D	3 E	4 F	5 G	6 A	7 B	8 C							
D		1 D	2 E	3 F#	4 G	5 A	6 B	7 C#	8 D						
Bb							1 Bb	2 C	3 D	4 Eb	5 F	6 G	7 A	8 Bb	
E			1 E	2 F#	3 G#	4 A#	5 B	6 C#	7 D#	8 E					

Standard Chord Combinations

Key of E: E A B7

Key of A: A D E7

Key of D: D G A7

Key of G: G C D7

Key of C: C F G7

The "official" name of a 7th is a minor 7th ... the note is a whole step below the octave root ... a C with a D chord. However this can lead to confusion as a minor 7th could also be interpreted as a minor chord (such as a Dm) plus a 7th.

The standard terminology is to call the note that is a whole step below the octave root a 7th and the note that is a half step below the octaveroot a major 7th (can be designated as Dmaj7 or DM7).