

# CHORDS

## -Type of Chord-

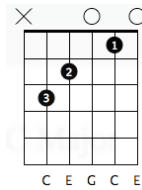
### Major Chord/Triad

We'll start off with the major chord. The major chord is made up of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> note of the major scale.

1<sup>st</sup> = Tonic/root    3<sup>rd</sup> = Major 3<sup>rd</sup>    5<sup>th</sup> = Perfect 5<sup>th</sup>

e.g. C Major scale is C D E F G A B

So the C Major triad is C E and G



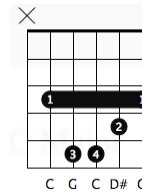
### Minor Chord/Triad

The minor chord is made up of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> note of the minor scale. Or more simply put is the same as the major scale but with a flattened 3<sup>rd</sup>.

1<sup>st</sup> = Tonic/root    3<sup>rd</sup> = minor third    5<sup>th</sup> = Perfect 5<sup>th</sup>

e.g. C minor scale is C D E $\flat$  F G A $\flat$  B $\flat$

So the C minor triad uses C E $\flat$  and G



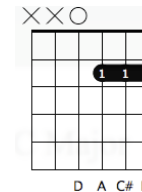
### Major 7 Chords

Major 7 chords involve adding the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the major scale to the major triad.

1<sup>st</sup> = tonic    3<sup>rd</sup> = major 3<sup>rd</sup>    5<sup>th</sup> = perfect 5<sup>th</sup>    7<sup>th</sup> = major 7<sup>th</sup>

e.g. D major triad is D F# A, the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the d major scale is C#

So Dmaj7 uses D F# A and C#



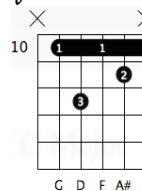
### Minor 7 Chords

Minor 7 chords involve adding the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the minor scale (flattened 7<sup>th</sup>) to a minor triad.

1<sup>st</sup> = tonic    3<sup>rd</sup> = minor 3<sup>rd</sup>    5<sup>th</sup> = perfect 5<sup>th</sup>    7<sup>th</sup> = minor 7<sup>th</sup>

e.g. G minor triad uses G B $\flat$  D and the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the minor scale is F.

So Gm7 uses G B $\flat$  D F



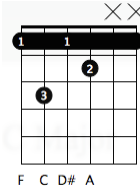
## Dominant 7 Chords

Dominant 7 chords involve adding a flattened 7<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> note of the minor scale) to a major triad.

1<sup>st</sup> = tonic      3<sup>rd</sup> = major 3<sup>rd</sup>    5<sup>th</sup> = perfect 5<sup>th</sup>    6<sup>7th</sup> = minor 7<sup>th</sup>

e.g. F major triad uses F A and C and the 7<sup>th</sup> note of F minor scale is E $\flat$

So F7 uses F A C and E $\flat$



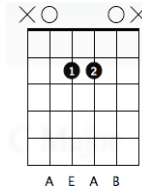
## Sus Chords

Sus chords involve suspending the 3<sup>rd</sup> and adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> or a 4<sup>th</sup>.

- Sus2 chords involve taking out the 3<sup>rd</sup> and adding the 2<sup>nd</sup>

e.g. A major triad uses A C# and E the 2<sup>nd</sup> note of A is B

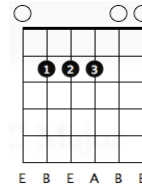
So Asus2 uses A B and E - 1 2 and 5



- Sus4 chords involve taking out the 3<sup>rd</sup> and adding the 4<sup>th</sup>

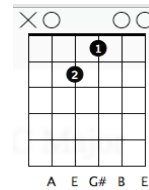
e.g. E major triad uses E G# and B, the 4<sup>th</sup> note of E is A

So Esus4 uses E A and B - 1 4 and 5

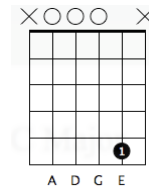


N.B. you can combine sus chords with major7 and minor7 chords.

e.g. Amaj7sus2 is a Amaj7 with no C# and the 2<sup>nd</sup> added A B E G# - 1 2 5 7



A7sus4 is A7 with no C# and the 4<sup>th</sup> added A D E G - 1 4 5 6 7

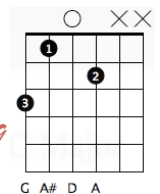


## Add Chords

Add chords are similar to sus chords as they involve adding the same notes - 9 being the same as adding the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11 being the same as adding the 4<sup>th</sup>, however unlike sus chords you do not take anything away you add the note to the full chord.

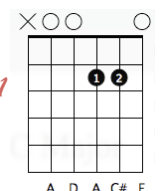
- Add9 chords involve adding the 9<sup>th</sup> (or 2<sup>nd</sup>) note to a chord.

e.g. Gminoradd9 uses G B $\flat$  D and A (A being the 9<sup>th</sup> note of the scale or the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1 octave up) 1 6 3 5 9



- Add11 chords involve adding the 11<sup>th</sup> (or 4<sup>th</sup>) note to a chord.

e.g. Aadd11 uses A C# E and D (D being the 11<sup>th</sup> note of the scale or the 4<sup>th</sup> note 1 octave up) 1 3 5 11



### More add chords

You will also see add chords such as G9, Gm9 and G11 and Gm11.

- 9 chords mean you add a 9th onto a dominant7 chord  
e.g. G9 uses G B D F and A - 1 3 5 6 7 9

- m9 chords mean you add a 9th onto a minor7 chord  
e.g. Gm9 uses G Bb D F and A - 1 6 3 5 6 7 9

- 11 chords mean you add an 11th onto a 9 chord  
e.g. G11 uses G B D F A and C - 1 3 5 6 7 9 11

- m11 chords mean you add an 11th onto a m9 chord  
e.g. Gm11 uses G Bb D F A and C - 1 6 3 5 6 7 9 11

