

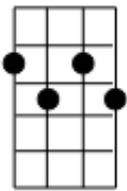


DIMINISHED 7th CHORDS

The diminished seventh chord is commonly used in Western classical music, jazz and popular music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

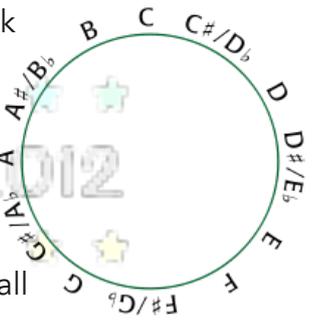
The shortened name for diminished chords is often written with the root note followed by the word 'dim'. For example, a C diminished chord would be written as 'Cdim' or an even simpler way is to exchange the word 'dim' for a small 'o' as in C^o.

Cdim



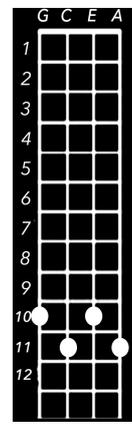
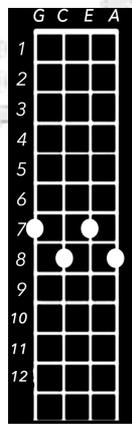
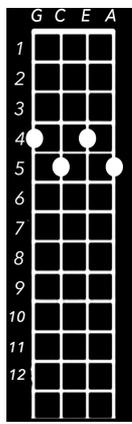
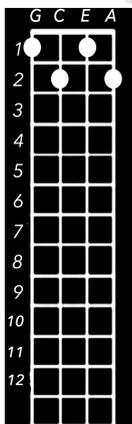
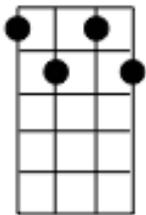
Diminished 7th chords are comprised of 4 notes. For example, C diminished-seventh would contain the notes [C, E^b, G^b, B^b], or enharmonically [C, E^b, G^b, A] which may seem like a lot of work to figure out, but luckily when diminished 7th chords are played on the ukulele, the four-fingered pattern is simply transposed up and down the neck in the same shape as the example on the left.

The great thing about this chord is that you can move the shape up the neck 4 frets, counting the original position, using the same shape, essentially giving you the same chord but with different voicings for each position. The reason being is that, each of the 4 notes within the chord are of equal temperament across with 12 notes of the chromatic scale falling on every 4th note. Using the Cdim example above use this circle diagram to spot where each of the notes are positioned. If they were on a clock they would fall on the hour, quarter past, half past and quarter to positions.



Bdim

The Laughing Rag begins with a B diminished chord, or B^o, and can be found in the following positions on the fretboard:



NB: For ease of instruction throughout this course, all diminished 7th chords will be represented with the 'o' symbol on tab sheets and with the word 'dim' for chord diagram boxes.