



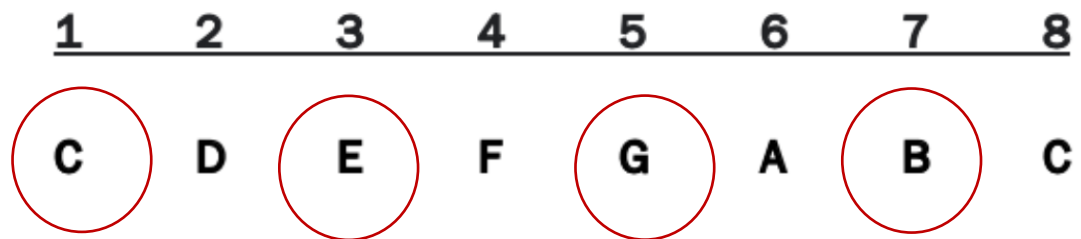
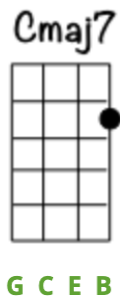
MAJOR & MINOR 7th CHORDS

MAJOR 7TH CHORDS

A major 7th chord contains the same notes as a major chord, but with an extra note that is located at position 7 in the major scale.

EXAMPLE. A C major chord contains 3 notes which are located at positions 1, 3 & 5 of the C major scale. This gives you the notes: C, E & G. To turn it into a **Major 7th** chord you also need to add the **7th note** of the C major scale which as illustrated below, is the note, B.

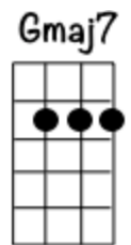
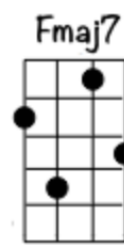
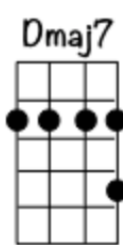
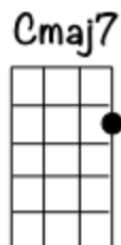
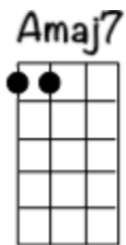
A C major 7th chord is written as **Cmaj7** and contains the notes: C, E, G & B.



So, what is the difference between a major chord and a major 7th you may ask?

The sound of a major 7th chord is characterised by a sense of brightness, fullness, and complexity. The major 7th chord has a rich and vibrant sound, with a distinct quality that is both warm and bright. Overall, the sound of a major 7th chord can be described as smooth, lush, and sophisticated. It is often used in jazz, pop, and classical music to add a sense of richness and depth to melodies and harmonies.

EXERCISE: Try out the chord shapes below. Some of the major 7 chord shapes are nice and easy to play, whereas others, (*Fmaj9*), can require a bit of finger stretching, but remember, you can always move those barred major 7th shapes up and down the fretboard for alternative chord positions.



These chords can all be made into moveable chords too. You just need to replace the open strings with a bar. As you can see, the C major 7 barred at fret 2 gives you a D major 7. You can use the same shape for an E major 7 at fret 4, F major 7 at fret 5 and G major 7 at fret 7.

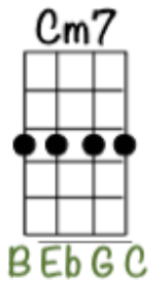
You may find some of the secondary positions easier to play, so give them a try.



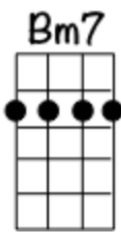

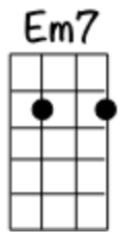
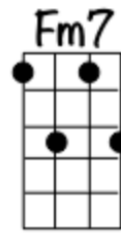
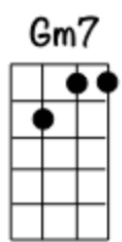
MINOR 7TH CHORDS

Minor seventh chords are made up of the same 3 notes as a minor chord (which has a flattened 3rd) plus that 7th note position. Minor 7th chords are written with the root note of the chord followed by a small 'm' and the number '7' so in the case of C minor 7, you would write: Cm7.

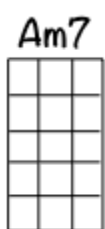
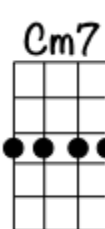
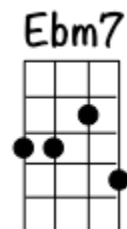
Let's break down that Cm7 chord. To find a minor chord using the C major scale, you need to flatten the 3rd note of the scale by 1 semitone, in this case the E becomes an Eb. Then C & G notes remain then all you need to do is add on the 7th note of the scale, which gives you a B note, so a Cm7 chord is made up of C, Eb, G & B.

<u>1</u>	2	3 ^b	4	5	6	7	8	
C	D	E^b	F	G	A	B	C	

Let's have a go at playing the minor 7ths below and watch the video to see how you can move them about to find the rest of the minor 7th chords.

				
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An Am7 is the same shape as the Bm7 except two frets down which means you don't need to fret any notes, just play all of the strings open. A Cm7 can be played by moving that same shaped barre up to fret 3. If you move the Dm7 up one fret, you get Ebm7 and so on.

		
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