

# Chord construction

This chart contains a variety of chord types, which, like all chords, can be constructed by reference to the appropriate major scale. By way of example, the scale of C major is used here to show which notes are included when constructing chords based on the *root note* C (C chords). Chords based on any other *root note* can be similarly constructed by reference to the major scale starting from that note.

CHORD TYPE	SYMBOL	SCALE NOTES	EXAMPLES (C chords)
Major	“ ”, Maj	1. 3. 5	C = C. E. G
Minor	min, m	1. b3. 5	Cm = C. Eb. G
Seventh	7	1. 3. 5. b7	C7 = C. E. G. Bb
Major seventh	Maj 7	1. 3. 5. 7	C Maj 7 = C. E. G. B
Minor seventh	min 7, m7	1. b3. 5. b7	Cm7 = C. Eb. G. Bb
Minor Major seventh	min maj7	1. b3. 5. 7	Cmin maj7 = C. Eb. G. B
Suspended 4th	sus 4, sus	1. 4. 5	Csus4 = C. F. G
Seventh suspended 4th	7 sus 4	1. 4. 5. b7	C7sus4 = C. F. G. Bb
Sixth	6	1. 3. 5. 6	C6 = C. E. G. A
Minor sixth	min 6, m6	1. b3. 5. 6	Cm6 = C. Eb. G. Bb
Ninth	9	1. 3. 5. b7. 9	C9 = C. E. G. Bb. D
Added ninth	add 9	1. 3. 5. 9	C add 9 = C. E. G. D
Minor 9th	min 9	1. b3. 5. b7. 9	C m9 = C. Eb. G. Bb. D
Augmented	aug, +	1. 3. #5	C+ = C. E. G#
Augmented seventh	aug 7 (7+5)	1. 3. #5. b7	C+7 = C. E. G#. Bb
Diminished	dim	1. b3. b5	C dim = C. Eb. Gb
Diminished seventh	dim 7, °	1. b3. b5. bb7	C° = C. Eb. Gb. Bbb
Half diminished seventh	½ dim 7, Ø7	1. b3. b5. b7	C Ø7 = C. Eb. Gb. Bb
Eleventh	11	1. 3. 5. b7. 9. 11	C 11 = C. E. G. Bb. D. F
Minor eleventh	min 11, m11	1. b3. 5. b7. 9. 11	Cm11 = C. Eb. G. Bb. D. F
Thirteenth	13	1. 3. 5. b7. 9. 11. 13	C13 = C. E. G. Bb. D. F. A
Minor thirteenth	min 13	1. b3. 5. b7. 9. 11. 13	Cm13 = C. Eb. G. Bb. D. F. A
Sixth added ninth	6 add 9	1. 3. 5. 6. 9	C6 add9 = C. E. G. A. D
Minor sixth added ninth	min 6 add 9	1. b3. 5. 6. 9	Cmin6 add9 = C. Eb. G. A. D

## Examples explained

The **C Major scale** (over two octaves) is composed of the following notes:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C

From the table it can be seen that the *chord* of **C Major** consists of the *first, third and fifth* notes of the **C Major scale**. This corresponds to the notes **C, E** and **G**. The **C Minor** chord differs by only one note. In this case, the *third* note is flatted (b3) so, instead of the notes **C, E** and **G** as in the chord of **C Major**, the notes **C, E flat (Eb)** and **G** are played. To illustrate a more complex example, in *sixth added ninth chords (6 add 9)* the notes used are **1, 3, 5, 6** and **9**. To produce the chord **C6 add 9**, the **C major scale** is again used giving the notes, **C, E, G, A, D**.

## Omission of notes

It's sometimes desirable, or even necessary, to omit certain notes of the chord. Thirteenth chords, for example, have seven notes so can't be played on a six string guitar without omitting at least one note. Notes commonly omitted from such chords are the 11th, and the 5th (but not #5 or b5). In band situations, the root may be omitted, especially if another instrument, such as the bass, is playing it.