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Building Ninth Chords

Any four-note chord can be extended by adding a 9th. The 9th can be found by referring to the extended major scales on pages 12 and 13.

Major 9th Chord

Symbol: maj9 or Δ9

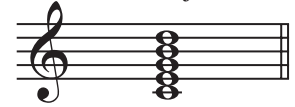
Start with a major 7th chord and add the 9th.

Examples:

Cmaj7=C–E–G–B; add the 9th (D). **Cmaj9**=C–E–G–B–D.

E♭maj9=E♭–G–B♭–D–F. **Gmaj9**=G–B–D–F♯–A. **B♭maj9**=B♭–D–F–A–C.

C Maj9



Dominant 9th Chord (Usually Called a “9th Chord”)

Symbol: 9

Start with a 7th chord and add the 9th

Examples:

C7=C–E–G–B♭; add the 9th (D). **C9**=C–E–G–B♭–D.

E9=E–G♯–B–D–F♯. **A♭9**=A♭–C–E♭–G♭. **B9**=B–D♯–F♯–A–C♯.

C9



Six-Nine Chord

Symbol: 6/9

Start with a 6th chord and add the 9th.

Examples:

C6=C–E–G–A; add the 9th (D). **C6/9**=C–E–G–A–D.

F6/9=F–A–C–D–G. **A6/9**=A–C♯–E–F♯–B.

C⁶₉



Minor Major 9th Chord

Symbol: min maj9 or m+7+9

Start with a minor major 7th chord and add the 9th.

Examples:

Cm+7=C–E♭–G–B; add the 9th (D). **Cm+7+9**=C–E♭–G–B–D

Dm+7+9=D–F–A–C♯–E. **F♯m+7+9**=F♯–A–C♯–E♯(F)–G♯.

Cm(maj9)



Minor 9th Chord

Symbol: m9 or min9

Start with a minor 7th chord and add the 9th

Examples:

Cm7=C–E♭–G–B♭; add the 9th (D). **Cm9**=C–E♭–G–B♭–D.

Dm9=D–F–A–C–E. **Fm9**=F–A♭–C–E♭–G. **Am9**=A–C–E–G–B.

Cm9



Minor Six-Nine Chord

Symbol: m6/9 or min6/9

Start with a minor 6th chord and add the 9th.

Examples:

Cm6=C–E♭–G–A; add the 9th (D). **Cm6/9**=C–E♭–G–A–D.

E♭m6/9=E♭–G♭–B♭–C–F. **F♯m6/9**=F♯–A–C♯–D♯–G♯. **B♭m6/9**=B♭–D♭–F–G–C.

Cm⁶₉



Diminished 7th add 9

Symbol: dim7add9 or °7add9

Start with a diminished 7th chord and add the 9th

Examples:

Cdim7=C–E♭–G♭–A; add the 9th (D). **Cdim7add9**=C–E♭–G♭–A–D.

Bdim7add9=B–D–F–A♭–C♯. **Fdim7add9**=F–A♭–C♭(B)–E♭(D)–G.

C°7add9



Section 2

Creating Chord Progressions

In this section, we discuss ways of putting chords together into progressions. You'll learn about simple two- and three-chord progressions, pedal points, how to construct progressions using diatonic and chromatic lines, what to do when a chord is repeated many times, how to put together introductions, endings and turnarounds, and how to use passing chords and neighbor chords.

Using Roman Numerals

As you have learned, each note in a major scale can be thought of as a number. For example, in a C Major scale, C=1, D=2, E=3, and so on. If you think of chord progressions as numbers, you'll have no trouble playing them in any key. Customarily, Roman numerals are used for this purpose (see chart on right). In the key of C, the I chord ("the one chord") is a C major chord. The IV chord ("the four chord") is an F major chord. The V7 chord ("the five-seven chord") is a G7, and so on.

Roman Numerals

1 = I
2 = II
3 = III
4 = IV
5 = V
6 = VI
7 = VII

Let's say these three chords are used in a song in the key of C. You'll use the C, F, and G7 chords. But suppose you want to play the same song in the key of G. In the key of G, the I chord is G, the IV chord is C, and the V7 chord is D7, so you would use these chords to play the song. If you have trouble remembering the numbers, refer to the major scales on pages 6 and 7.

For minor chords, use a small "m." For example, IV_m in the key of C is F minor. For 9th chords, use a 9; for 11th chords, use an 11; and so on. Simply substitute the Roman numeral for the letter name of the chord. If the chord is not in the scale, use a sharp or a flat. If you want an F# diminished chord in the key of C say: #IVdim ("sharp-four diminished"). If an Eb9 chord is called for (in the key of C), say bIII9 ("flat-three ninth").

Your First Chord Progression: I-V7-I

As you have already learned, a chord progression is when you start with a chord (usually the root chord), move to different chords, and finally return to the original root chord. The simplest form of this is I-V7-I. In the key of C, this would be C-G7-C. In the key of G, this progression would be G-D7-G. In A, it would be A-E7-A, and so on.

This simple progression can be found in many folk songs and children's songs. "Skip to My Lou" uses only the I (C) and V7 (G7) chords in the key of C.

Skip to My Lou

I C	V7 G7	
I C	V7 G7	I C