

Chord Theory

All chords are built from the major scale. You can figure out the notes in any major scale by applying this pattern of whole- and half- steps [**W W H W W W H**]

W= 2 Frets, H = 1 fret

B-C and E-F have no half step between them

For example, the A major scale:

A B C# D E F# G# A
 W W H W W W H

The scale tones can be numbered:

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

Any chord can be built from its corresponding major scale by applying the appropriate chord formula.

Chord Formula		Examples (key of A)	
Major: (triad)	<u>1 3 5</u>	A:	<u>A C# E</u>
Minor: (triad)	<u>1 ^b3 5</u>	Am:	<u>A C E</u>
<u>Seventh Chords</u>			
* Major 7:	1 3 5 7	Amaj7:	A C# E G#
* Dominant 7:	1 3 5 ^b 7	A7:	A C# E G
* Minor 7:	1 ^b 3 5 ^b 7	Am7:	A C E G
* Minor 7(^b 5):	1 ^b 3 ^b 5 ^b 7	Am7(^b 5):	A C E ^b G
Suspended 4:	1 4 5	Asus4:	A D E
Suspended 2:	1 2 5	Asus2:	A B E
Major 6:	1 3 5 6	A6:	A C# E F#
Add 9:	1 3 5 9	A(9):	A C# E B
Minor 9:	1 ^b 3 5 9	Am9:	A C E B
Dominant 9:	1 3 5 ^b 7 9	A9:	A C# E G B
Dominant 13:	1 3 5 ^b 7 13	A 13:	A C# E G F#
Dominant 7([#] 9):	1 3 5 ^b 7 [#] 9**(^b 3)	A7([#] 9):	A C# E G C _♭
Dominant 7(^b 9):	1 3 5 ^b 7 ^b 9	A7(^b 9):	A C# E G B ^b
Dominant 7(^b 13)	1 3 5 ^b 7 ^b 13	A7(^b 13):	A C# E G F
Diminished 7:	1 ^b 3 ^b 5 ^{bb} 7 (6)	A ^o 7:	A C E ^b F#

