

LESSON 13

Date: _____

To date, you have studied harmony that involves two notes (intervals) or three notes (triads). Our next task will be to understand some of the theory of 4-note diatonic chords.

Origins of Seventh Chords

A seventh chord is so called because it contains a seventh above the root. Consider the following musical figures. The melody in the first moves from a triad, through a seventh to resolve to a perfect cadence. The seventh acts as a passing note, unstable and in need of resolution. Around the 17th century, composers began to explore the dissonance of the seventh and used this chord more frequently and for longer durations. This intensified the dissonance, allowing for more musical tension, and subsequently greater release.

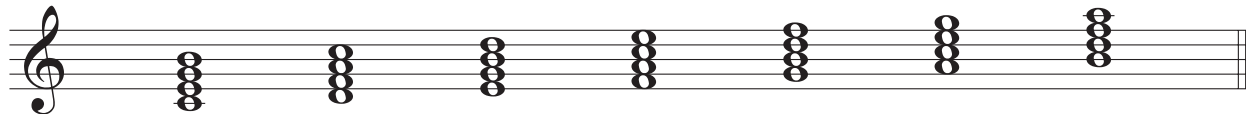


Seventh Chords on Scales Degrees

Like triads, seventh chords can be built on all scale degrees of major and minor scales. The 3 different forms of minor scales make possible many different qualities of seventh chords. In Level 5 we will only study seventh chords built on major and harmonic minor scales. A seventh chord is named by the quality of the triad on which it is built and the quality of the seventh.

Examine the resulting seventh chords formed in C+ and c -. Recall the quality of triads built on scale degrees. Analyze the interval of the seventh, then listen to the resulting qualities of the entire 4-note chord.

Seventh Chords Built on Major Scales



Seventh Quality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Triad Quality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Seventh Chords Built on Harmonic Minor Scales



Seventh Quality _____
 Triad Quality _____

Representing Seventh Chords and Inversions Using Roman Numerals

Seventh chords can be arranged in four positions: root, first inversion, second inversion, and third inversion. The position of a seventh chord depends on the relationship between the root (scale degree) of the chord and the bass note (lowest sounding note) of the chord.

R	1st	2nd	3rd
The bass note is the root.	The bass note is the third.	The bass note is the fifth.	The bass note is the seventh.
$\begin{matrix} 7 \\ 5 \\ I^3 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ I^3 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ I^3 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ I^2 \end{matrix}$

Notice the Arabic superscripts indicate the intervals of the upper notes with respect to the **bass** note. These Roman numeral figures are always abbreviated to the following:

I^7	I^6	I^4	I^4
I^5	I^3	I^2	

To help you remember seventh chord inversions, think of them as a phone number: 765-4342!

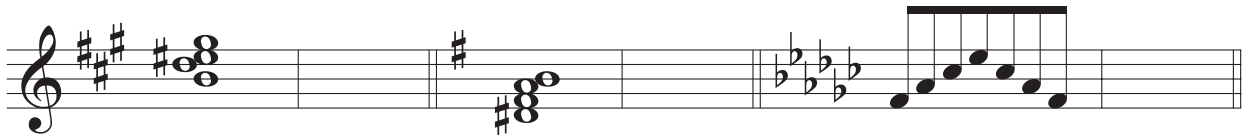
Of all the seven different diatonic seventh chords, only five of these chords will be covered in Level 5. The minor-major seventh and augmented-major seventh chords will be omitted. When analyzing seventh chords in Level 5, the Roman numeral system of chord symbols will be used. The following chart summarizes the five most commonly used seventh chords. Many different symbol systems are commonly used. Some of the more popular symbols are also included in the chart for your reference.

Common Diatonic Seventh Chords and their Notation

Seventh Chord Name	Triad-Seventh Quality	Chord Symbols	
		Roman	Other
major	major-major	I ^{M7}	maj ⁷ , M ⁷
minor	minor-minor	ii ⁷	min ⁷ , m ⁷ , 7
dominant	major-minor	V ⁷	7, dom ⁷
diminished	diminished-diminished	vii ^{o7}	dim ⁷ , o ⁷
half-diminished	diminished-minor	vii ^{ø7}	ø ⁷ , m ^{7dim5} , m ^{7b5} ,

PRACTICE

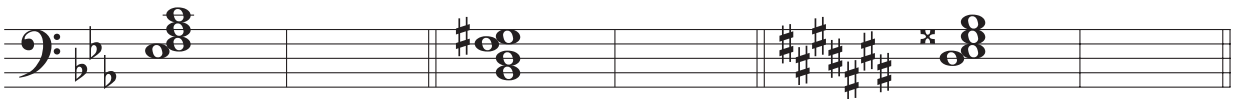
- Write each seventh chord as a solid chord in root position. Identify each chord using its name: major, minor, dominant, diminished, or half-diminished. Then, determine the key(s) and corresponding Roman numeral figure(s) for each chord.



Chord Name: _____

Key(s): _____

Roman numeral figure(s): _____



Chord Name: _____

Key(s): _____

Roman numeral figure(s): _____

Chord Name: _____

Key(s): _____

Roman numeral figure(s): _____

Chord Name: _____

Key(s): _____

Roman numeral figure(s): _____

Coro I. II.

Soprano.
Alto.
Tenore.
Basso.
Organo e Continuo.

Soprano.
Alto.
Tenore.
Basso.
Organo e Continuo.

Ba-rab-bani!
Ba-rab-bani!
Ba-rab-bani!
Ba-rab-bani!
Ba-rab-bani!