

CHORD QUALITY DICTIONARY

CHORD QUALITIES: Quality describes how a chord sounds. There are names for these qualities such as Major, Minor, Diminished, Augmented and Dominant.

Chords are built from the notes of the scale they are named after but can also be built by knowing the intervals that make them up or by taking the numbers from the major scale and altering them. A flat (b) or sharp (#) in front of a scale number means to raise or lower a scale number by a half step, not that the note will be a b or #.

Triads

CHORD QUALITY	SCALE NUMBERS	EXAMPLE	NOTES IN CHORD
Major	1, 3, 5	C	C, E, G
Minor	1, b3, 5	Cm or C-	C, Eb, G
Diminished	1, b3, b5	Cdim or C°	C, Eb, Gb
Augmented	1, 3, #5	Caug or C+	C, E, G#
Sus4	1, 4, 5	Csus4	C, F, G
Sus2	1, 2, 5	Csus2	C, D, G

7ths

CHORD QUALITY	SCALE NUMBERS	EXAMPLE	NOTES IN CHORD
Major 7th	1, 3, 5, 7	Cmaj7	C, E, G, B
Dominant 7th	1, 3, 5, b7	C7	C, E, G, Bb
Minor 7th	1, b3, 5, b7	Cm7 or C-7	C, Eb, G,
Minor 7b5 or Half Diminished 7	1, b3, b5, b7	Cm7b5, C-7b5 or Cø7	C, Eb, Gb, Bb
Diminished 7th	1, b3, b5, bb7	Cdim7 or C°7	C, Eb, Gb, Bbb
Augmented 7th	1, 3, #5, b7	Caug7 or C+7	C, E, G#, Bb
Minor Major 7th	1, b3, 5, 7	Cm maj7	C, Eb, G, B