

Chord Formulas Chart

How 16 chord types are built: formula, notes in C and in G, and what each sounds like.

Chord type	Symbol	Formula	Notes in C	Notes in G	Sound
Power chord	C5	1 5	C G	G D	Neutral, punchy
Major	C	1 3 5	C E G	G B D	Bright, settled
Minor	Cm	1 b3 5	C E ^b G	G B ^b D	Sad, serious
Dominant 7th	C7	1 3 5 b7	C E G B ^b	G B D F	Bluesy, restless
Major 7th	Cmaj7	1 3 5 7	C E G B	G B D F [#]	Soft, dreamy
Minor 7th	Cm7	1 b3 5 b7	C E ^b G B ^b	G B ^b D F	Smooth, relaxed
Suspended 2nd	Csus2	1 2 5	C D G	G A D	Open, airy
Suspended 4th	Csus4	1 4 5	C F G	G C D	Unresolved
Add 9	Cadd9	1 2 3 5	C D E G	G A B D	Shimmering major
Major 6th	C6	1 3 5 6	C E G A	G B D E	Sweet, vintage
Minor 6th	Cm6	1 b3 5 6	C E ^b G A	G B ^b D E	Dark, jazzy
Dominant 9th	C9	1 2 3 5 b7	C D E G B ^b	G A B D F	Funky, bluesy
Diminished	Cdim	1 b3 b5	C E ^b G ^b	G B ^b D ^b	Tense, unstable
Diminished 7th	Cdim7	1 b3 b5 b7	C E ^b G ^b B ^{bb}	G B ^b D ^b F ^b	Very tense
Half-diminished	Cm7b5	1 b3 b5 b7	C E ^b G ^b B ^b	G B ^b D ^b F	Dark, jazzy
Augmented	Caug	1 3 b6	C E G [#]	G B D [#]	Dreamy, unsettled

Reading the formula

Numbers are degrees of the root's major scale. A flat (b) lowers that degree by one fret. 9 is the 2nd an octave up. In a diminished 7th the b7 is two frets below the 7th (the same pitch as the 6th).