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Major & Minor 7ths

You usually see these symbols on music sheets but may not know what it means. The symbol used to signify a major 7th is maj7 while min7 stands for minor 7th. Here is an explanation of what the difference is between these two types of chords and how they are formed.

The **Major 7th chord** is formed by playing the **root (1st) + 3rd + 5th + 7th notes of a major scale**. It is important to learn how to form the major scales and assign the numbers 1 to 7 (with 1 assigned to the root note) in order to learn how to play a major 7th chord easily.

Here are the major 7th chords in every key:

Cmaj7 = C - E - G - B
Dmaj7 = D - F# - A - C#
Emaj7 = E - G# - B - D#
Fmaj7 = F - A - C - E
Gmaj7 = G - B - D - F#
Amaj7 = A - C# - E - G#
Bmaj7 = B - D# - F# - A#
C#maj7 = C# - E# (F) - G# - B# (C)
D♭maj7 = D♭ - F - A♭ - C
E♭maj7 = E♭ - G - B♭ - D
F#maj7 = F# - A# - C# - E# (F)
G♭maj7 = G♭ - B♭ - D♭ - F
A♭maj7 = A♭ - C - E♭ - G
B♭maj7 = B♭ - D - F - A

A **minor 7th chord** is formed based on the major 7th chord, by **lowering the 3rd and 7th note a half step** (also means to flatten the 3rd and 7th). Here are the minor 7th chords in every key:

Cm7 = C - E $\flat$ - G - B $\flat$

Dm7 = D - F - A - C

Em7 = E - G - B - D

Fm7 = F - A $\flat$ - C - E $\flat$

Gm7 = G - B $\flat$ - D - F

Am7 = A - C - E - G

Bm7 = B - D - F $\sharp$ - A

C $\sharp$ m7 = C $\sharp$ - E - G $\sharp$ - B

D $\flat$ m7 = D $\flat$ - E - A $\flat$ - B

E $\flat$ m7 = E $\flat$ - G $\flat$ - B $\flat$ - D $\flat$

F $\sharp$ m7 = F $\sharp$ - A - C $\sharp$ - E

G $\flat$ m7 = G $\flat$ - A - D $\flat$ - E

A $\flat$ m7 = A $\flat$ - B - E $\flat$ - G $\flat$

B $\flat$ m7 = B $\flat$ - D $\flat$ - F - A $\flat$