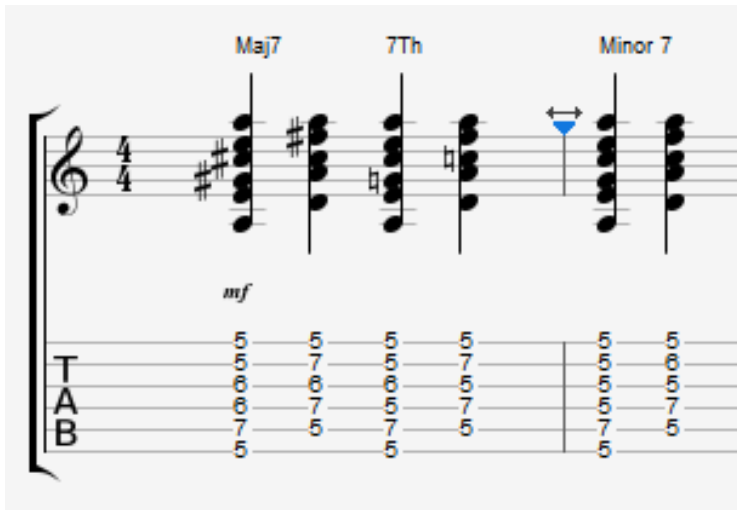# Seventh Chords

First here's how you play them.

In any standard major key, chords are formed by notes of the major scales being placed together in threes, as seen below.

C Major Scale

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Now the 1, 3 and 5 are put together

1 C

3 E

5 G

Then the 2, 4 and 6

2 D

4 F

6 A

Then the same pattern is repeated on all of the notes

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

Now we have Triads, basic major and minor chords. Here is a chart to tell you which.

1 Major

2 Minor

3 Minor

4 Major

5 Major

6 Minor

7 Minor b 5

These basic chords are created by intervals of a third (C to E) and in order to turn them in to 7th chords we need to add another third.

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

When we have notes past the octave (past note 8) the notes repeat. So note 2 is the same as note 9.

Here is another chart telling us the type of seventh chord each one is.

1 Major 7th

2 Minor 7th

3 Minor 7th

4 Major 7th

5 Dominant 7th

6 Minor 7th

7 Minor 7 b 5

The reason why there are different seventh chords is simple. Chords are built in intervals of 3rds, of which there are two types Major 3rd and Minor 3rd. The Major 3rd is two tones and the minor 3rd is a tone and a half. The order that these intervals fall determines the type of 7th the chord is.

Here is the intervals that build a Major 7 chord.

1	maj 3rd	3	Min 3rd	5	Maj 3rd	7
C		E		G		B

And a dominant 7th

1	maj 3rd	3	Min 3rd	5	Min 3rd	7
C		E		G		Bb

And a Minor 7th

1	min 3rd	3	Maj 3rd	5	Min 3rd	7
C		Eb		G		Bb

Try to re-write the math of working out 7ths chords with another key, such as G major.

G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G

In the next part of this series, we will talk about the 5th chord, the dominant 7th, and how it is used in Jazz.

Good Luck ☺