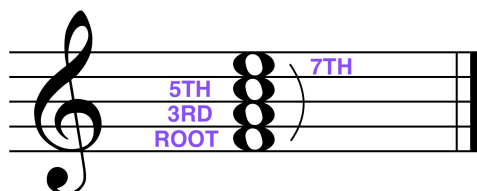


## SEVENTH CHORDS

Every triad can be extended by adding another third above the fifth of the chord. The resulting chord is known as a **seventh chord** since it contains the interval of a seventh above the bass.


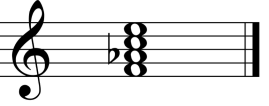


### QUALITIES:

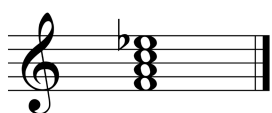
Seventh chords will be of various qualities.

The quality of the seventh chord is designated by the quality of the triad and the quality of the seventh:

SEVENTH CHORD	TRIAD	SEVENTH	EXAMPLE
major (M)	major	major	
minor (m)	minor	minor	
dominant (Mm)	major	minor	
[fully] diminished (o)	diminished	diminished	
half-diminished (ø)	diminished	minor	

augmented (A)	augmented	major	
minor - major (mM)	minor	Major	

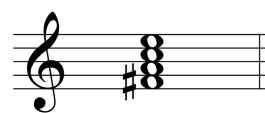
The dominant seventh chord (the Mm seventh chord) is by far the most common seventh chord. The fully and half diminished seventh chords are the next most common chords.



Dominant 7  
Major-minor



fully diminished  
dim-dim



half diminished  
dim-minor

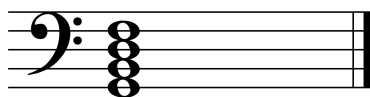
### *INVERSIONS*

Seventh chords can be inverted. A seventh chord is inverted if the bottom-most note, the bass, is not the root of the chord.

Since there are four notes (instead of 3 in a triad), there is a root position and first, second and third inversion of a seventh chord.

#### *ROOT POSITION:*

A seventh chord is said to be in root position when all the intervals are types of thirds.

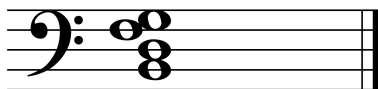


7

Root position is designated simply by a 7, meaning there is a third, fifth and seventh above the bass. (The third and the fifth above the bass are understood in the Arabic numeral designation.)

*FIRST INVERSION:*

A seventh chord is said to be in first inversion if the third of the chord is in the bass (the bottom-most voice).

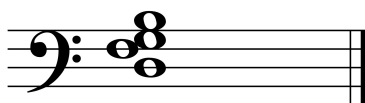


6  
5  
3

In first inversion, all seventh chords contain the intervals of a 3rd, 5th, and 6th. The shortened Arabic designation is  $\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix}$ . The note a third above the bass is assumed to be present.

*SECOND INVERSION:*

A seventh chord is said to be in second inversion if the fifth of the chord is in the bass (the bottom-most voice).

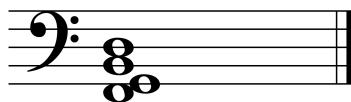


6  
4  
3

In second inversion, all seventh chords contain the intervals of a 3rd, 4th, and 6th. The shortened Arabic designation is  $\begin{smallmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$ . The note a sixth above the bass is assumed to be present.

*THIRD INVERSION:*

A seventh chord is said to be in third inversion if the seventh of the chord is in the bass (the bottom-most voice).



6  
4  
2

In third inversion, all seventh chords contain the intervals of a 2nd, 4th, and 6th. The shortened Arabic designation is  $\begin{smallmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}$ . The note a sixth above the bass is assumed to be present.