

Jazz Chord Chart

by Arthur Houle

Triad (3-note chord)	Type	Half steps	Altered how? (compared to Major triad)	Black/white keys (will change in other keys)	Character
C	Major	5+4		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Happy
[C- Cm	minor	4+5	(3 ↓)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Sad
[C° Cdim	diminished	4+4	(3 ↓ 5 ↓)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Danger?
[C+ Caug	augmented	5+5	(5 ↑)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unsettled?
Csus	suspended	6+3	(3 ↑)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Unresolved

Make a "black/white" chart of these chords in other keys.

Practice all chords in all keys, hands separately and hands together, blocked and broken (make up different patterns--Alberti bass pattern, for example). Repeat everything using inversions as well (see below). Do not try to do all this in one practice session. Keep a practice log and make a daily record of the keys and chords practiced. When you have mastered this you are ready for 7th chords (see 7th chord chart)!

Inversions

Inversions are indicated as follows in "fake" books:

C/E: The chord (first letter indicated) is C major, with E (second letter indicated) voiced on the bottom (this is called 1st inversion).

C/G: The chord is C major, with G voiced at the bottom (2nd inversion).

The bottom note is sometimes not part of the chord indicated. For example:

C/F: Right hand plays a C chord; left hand plays a low F.

7th chords	Triad	7th	Half steps	Black/white keys (will change in other keys)
[CM7 CMa7 CMA7 CMaj7 CΔ7	Major	Major	5+4+5	□ □ □ □
C7 (most common)	Major	minor	5+4+4	□ □ □ ■
[Cm7 C-7	minor	minor	4+5+4	□ ■ □ ■
[Cm7(♭5)* Cm7(-5) C-7(♭5) Cϕ7	diminished	minor	4+4+5	□ ■ ■ ■
[Cdim7 C°7	diminished	diminished	4+4+4	□ ■ ■ □
Csus7	(3 ↑)	minor	6+3+4	□ □ □ ■
[C+7 C7(+5) Caug7	augmented	minor	5+5+3	□ □ ■ ■
[C7(-5) C7(♭5)	(5 ↓)	minor	5+3+5	□ □ ■ ■
[Cm(M7) C-(Δ7) CMaj7(-3)	minor	Major	4+5+5	□ ■ □ □

C6: major triad plus added major 6th 5+4+3 □ □ □ □

Practice all keys, inversions, hands separately & together, staccato & legato, and in different rhythmic patterns (including boogie: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ etc...). Keep a practice log!

*Parentheses do not appear in all fake books.

