

Chord Formulas

Major Family

Major	1, 3, 5
Major Sus	1, 4, 5
Major 6	1, 3, 5, 6
Major 7th	1, 3, 5, 7
Major 9th	1, 3, 5, 7, 9
Add 9	1, 3, 5, 9
Major 6/9th	1, 3, 5, 6, 9
Major 7/6th	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
Major 13th	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13
Augmented	1, 3, #5

Minor Family

Minor	1, b3, 5
Minor 6th	1, b3, 5, 6
Minor 7th	1, b3, 5, b7
Minor 9th	1, b3, 5, b7, 9
Minor 11th	1, b3, 5, b7, 9, 11
Minor 7/11th	1, b3, 5, b7, 11
Minor Add 9	1, b3, 5, 9
Minor 6/9	1, b3, 5, 6, 9
Minor/Major 7th	1, b3, 5, 7
Minor/Major 9th	1, b3, 5, 7, 9
Diminished	1, b3, b5
Minor 7b5	1, b3, b5, b7
Diminished 7th	1, b3, b5, bb7 (or 6th)

Dominant 7th Family

Dominant 7th	1, 3, 5, b7
Dominant 9th	1, 3, 5, b7, 9
Dominant 11th	1, 3, 5, b7, 9, 11
Dominant 13th	1, 3, 5, b7, 9, 11, 13
Dominant 7/6th	1, 3, 5, 6, b7
Dominant 7 Suspended	1, 4, 5, b7
Dominant 7th Altered	1, 3, b7 with any combination of b5, #5, b9, #9, b11, #11, b13, #13

Some Thoughts On Chord Formulas

- 1) Think of anything containing a Major 3rd as Major, lowered 3rd as Minor and Major + lowered 7th as Dominant.
- 2) Augmented chords do not necessarily fit into any one category. We think of them as a Major type chord because of the Major 3rd.
- 3) Diminished type chords relate closest to minor types because of the lowered 3rd.
- 4) Memorizing every possible Dominant or Altered Dominant formula can be redundant. Knowing your Intervals on the fretboard and being able to visualize where to place a nearby altered tone in your Dom7th fingering is a much more useful way to increase your chord vocabulary.
- 5) Some Dominant 7th formulas are impossible to play on the guitar. For example the Dom13 contains 7 notes. Since most guitarists only have 6 strings it is acceptable to omit an ambiguous tone such as the 5th from your chosen voicing.