

# Chord Types

Chords are named according to their root note and the intervals between the notes that make them up. Most chords fall into six types: *major*, *minor*, *dominant*, *diminished*, *augmented*, and *suspended*.

## Major Chord

A triad chord made up notes that are a **major third** (3rd) and a **perfect fifth** (5th) interval from the root is called a major chord. If another note is added to the triad and that note is a major seventh interval from the root, the chord is called a major seventh. Alternately, if another note is added to the triad and it is a sixth interval from the root, that chord is called a major sixth chord.

## Minor Chord

A triad chord made up of a **minor third** ( $\flat$ 3rd) and **perfect fifth** (5th) interval from the root is called a minor chord. If another note is added to the triad and that note is a minor seventh ( $\flat$ 7th) interval from the root, the chord is called a minor seventh. Alternately, if another note is added to the triad and it is a sixth interval from the root, that chord is called a minor sixth chord.

## Dominant Chord

When fourth note is added to a **major chord** and that note is a **minor seventh** ( $\flat$ 7th) interval, the resulting four-note chord is called a dominant seventh.

## Diminished Chord

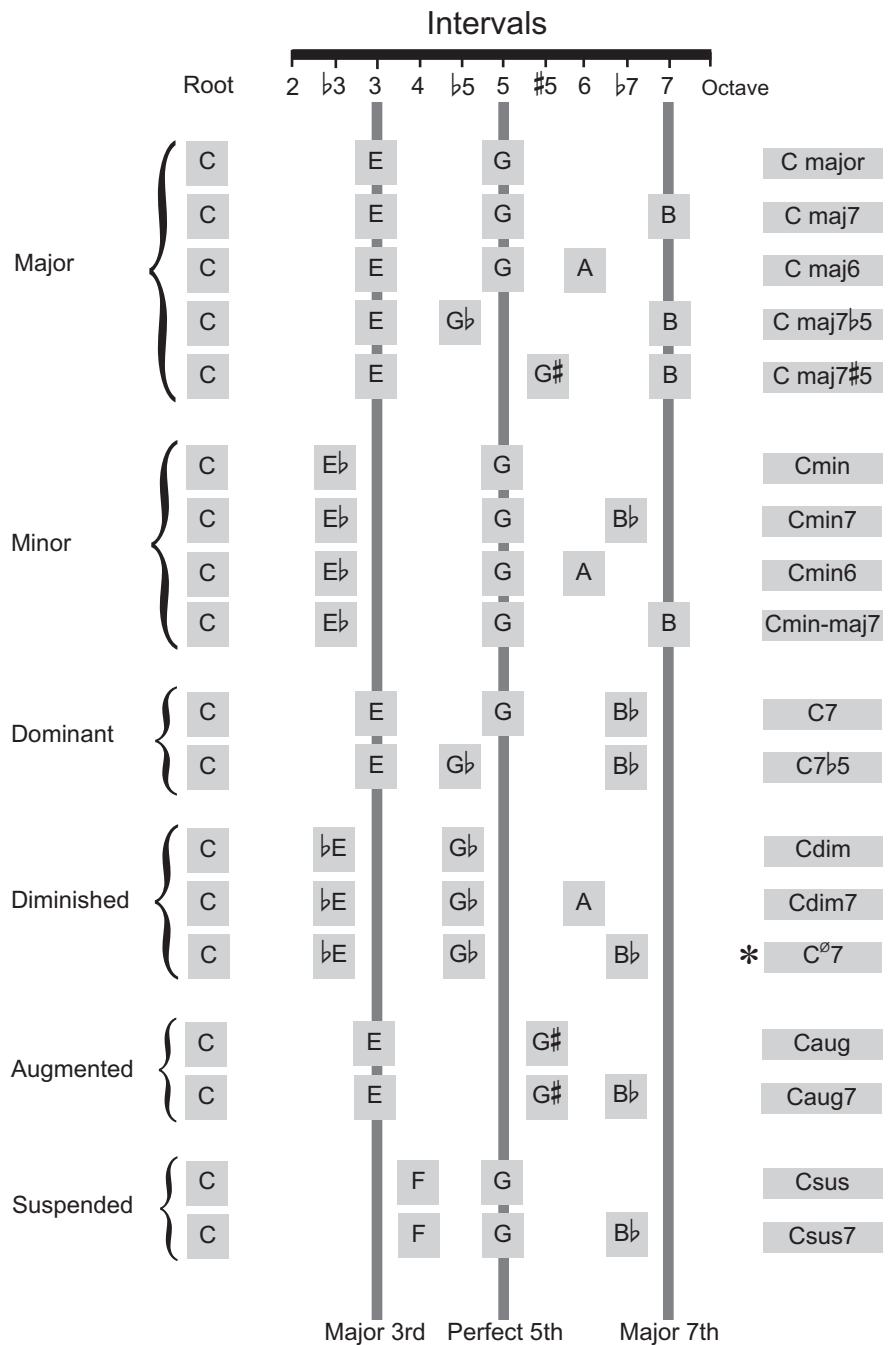
A triad chord made up of a **minor third** ( $\flat$ 3rd) and a **diminished fifth** ( $\flat$ 5th) interval is called diminished. If a fourth note is added and that note is a perfect sixth (sometimes called a double-flatted 7th —  $\flat\flat$ 7) interval, the chord is called a diminished seventh. Alternately, if that fourth note is a minor seventh, the chord is called half-diminished seventh.

## Augmented Chord

A triad chord made up of a **major third** (3rd) and an **augmented fifth** ( $\sharp$ 5th) interval is called augmented. If a fourth note is added and that note is a minor seventh interval, the chord is called an augmented seventh.

## Suspended Chord

A triad made up of a **perfect fourth** ( $\sharp$ 4th or  $\flat$ 5th) and a **perfect fifth** (5th) interval is called a suspended chord. If another note is added to the triad and that note is a minor seventh interval from the root, the chord is called a suspended seventh.



\* The symbol for half-diminished is  $\emptyset$ .

Example:  $G^{\emptyset 7} = Gm7\flat 5$