

Seventh Chord Progressions In Major Keys

In this lesson I am going to focus on all of the 7th chord types that are found in Major Keys. I am assuming that you have already gone through the previous lessons on creating chord progressions with basic triads in Major and Minor keys so I won't be going into all of the theory behind it like I did in those lessons. If you haven't read through those lessons AND you don't already have that knowledge under your belt, I suggest you download the FREE lesson PDF on Creating and Writing Major Key Chord Progressions at www.GuitarLessons365.com.

So What Makes A Seventh Chord Different From A Triad?

A Seventh Chord **IS** basically a triad with one more note added. If you remember how we can get the notes of a Major Triad by just figuring out the 1st, 3rd and 5th tones of a major scale then understanding that a Major Seventh Chord is a four note chord shouldn't be too hard to grasp. All we need to do is continue the process of skipping thirds to get our chord tones. So a Seventh Chord would be spelled 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th. The added 7th scale degree is what gives it its name. That is all it is. :)

So what I have done for this theory lesson is just continue what we did with the basic triads, but this time made everything a Seventh Chord. This should just be a simple process of just memorizing each chord type to its respective scale degree. If you have already done this with the Major Key Triads you will have no problem at all. So without further adieu, here is the basic order of Seventh Chords for EVERY MAJOR KEY. I will do them in a couple of keys so you can see that they are all the same.

Key Of C Major

1. C Major Seventh
2. D Minor Seventh
3. E Minor Seventh
4. F Major Seventh
5. G Dominant Seventh
6. A Minor Seventh
7. B Minor Seventh b5

Key Of G Major

1. G Major Seventh
2. A Minor Seventh
3. B Minor Seventh
4. C Major Seventh
5. D Dominant Seventh
6. E Minor Seventh
7. F# Minor Seventh b5

So looking at the keys laid out above, you should recognize that the first Seventh Chord in EVERY major key is always a Major Seventh chord. The second chord in every major key is a Minor Seventh chord and so on. The only thing that will change from key to key is the notes along the left hand side. So just like with the triads, if you take your major scales and just run them each down the order of sevenths you will have all of the seventh chords you need for every major key. If you still don't have your major scales down be sure and download the "Understanding Keys" lesson PDF at www.GuitarLessons365.com.

The next lesson will be a video lesson with me once again showing you how to apply these seventh chord progressions to the guitar. Just as a hint, the chord forms that I will be using to construct these chord progressions are the same ones we learned when doing all of our seventh chord studies using the CAGED Sequence. All of those lessons can be found on the site for FREE of course if you need to review. Just do a search on Seventh chords at the site.

I hope you enjoyed this lesson and are ready to add the beautiful sound of seventh chord progressions to your playing. These progressions will sound far more sophisticated than just using triads, so I think you will enjoy it and make them a permanent part of your playing. The next Seventh Chord Progression theory lesson that I will do, will be on Seventh Chords in Minor Keys. That is where it REALLY starts to get interesting. STAY TUNED!! Carl...