

Building Chords & Chord Formulas

Chord Name	Chord Formula	Notation (C Root)	Chord Spelling
Major	1-3-5	C	C-E-G
Major 6 th	1-3-5-6	C6	C-E-G-A
Major 7 th	1-3-5-7	Cmaj7	C-E-G-B
Major 7 flat 5	1-3-b5-7	Cmaj7b5	C-E-Gb-B
Major 6/9	1-3-5-6-9	C6/9	C-E-G-A-D
Minor	1-b3-5	Cm	C-Eb-G
Minor 6 th	1-b3-5-6	Cm6	C-Eb-G-A
Minor 7 th	1-b3-5-b7	Cm7	C-Eb-G-Bb
Minor Major	1-b3-5-7	Cm(maj7)	C-Eb-G-B
Dominant 7	1-3-5-b7	C7	C-E-G-Bb
Diminished	1-b3-b5	C°, Cdim	C-Eb-Gb
Diminished 7	1-b3-b5-bb7	C°7, Cdim7	C-Eb-Gb-A
Half-Diminished	1-b3-b5-b7	Cø, Cmin7b5	C-Eb-Gb-Bb
Suspended 2	1-2-5	Csus2	C-D-G
Suspended 4	1-4-5	Csus4	C-F-G
Augmented	1-3-#5	Caug	C-E-G#
Add 9	1-3-5-9	Cadd9	C-E-G-D
Power Chord	1-5-(8)	C5	C-G-(C)



These formulas are the building blocks of many of the first chords we learn. Applying the knowledge of these structures allows us to better understand not only the similarities and differences of chords – They reveal patterns we must recognize in order to unlock the guitar's full potential.

Use this table with the:

[Major Scale Degrees Number System](#)

Patience, momentum, and doing the small things well.