

Chords: Basic Structures

(Main chord forms as "Discrete Entities".)

JimO

1. Basic Close-Position "Grips. Tertian shapes/Triads.

C Cm Cdim Caug(+) Csus4 Cadd2

Musical notation showing five triads in 4/4 time. The chords are: MAJOR (C), MINOR (Cm), DIMINISHED (Cdim), AUGMENTED (Caug(+)), and SUS4/2 (Csus4 and Cadd2). Each chord is shown in both treble and bass clefs with its constituent notes.

6 2. Standard "Chord-Tone" descriptions.

Musical notation showing five triads with their chord tones labeled below the notes: 1 3 5, 1 b3 5, 1 b3 b5, 1 3 #5, and 1 4 5 / 1 2 5. The notes are shown in both treble and bass clefs.

11 3. Seventh-chord Grips.

Cmaj7 C7 Cm7 Cdim.7 C7#5 CM7#5

Musical notation showing six seventh chords in 4/4 time. The chords are: MAJOR 7 (Cmaj7), DOMINANT 7 (C7), MINOR 7 (Cm7), DIMINISHED 7 (Cdim.7), 7#5 (C7#5), and MAJ#5 (CM7#5). Each chord is shown in both treble and bass clefs.

16 C7sus4 C6 Cm6 Cm/m7 Cmaj7(add2)

Musical notation showing five advanced seventh chords in 4/4 time. The chords are: 7SUS4 (C7sus4), MAJOR 6 (C6), MINOR 6 (Cm6), m/Maj7 (Cm/m7), and MAJOR7ADD 2 (Cmaj7(add2)). Each chord is shown in both treble and bass clefs.

21 4. Type 1 "slash chords". Chord on Left, Bass note on the right.

Musical notation showing five slash chords in 4/4 time. The chords are: C/E, C/G, Dm(Drop 2/4), G/B, and C. Each chord is shown in both treble and bass clefs, with the bass note indicated by a '1,2,3,4' label under the Dm chord.

26 5. Partial or "shell" voicings.

Musical notation showing eight partial or "shell" voicings in 4/4 time. The chords are: C3 (Partial), Cmaj7/G, C7, F3, C7, F3, G7, and C3. Each chord is shown in both treble and bass clefs.

31 G7(Partial) C3 F7(Partial) B \flat

NOTE: This is the nomenclature and graphic shapes for most of the chord types and shapes we use in modern music. From this set of images the learning objectives are numerous. Here's a basic list:
These are 3 and 4-part chord structures. Learn the intervallic structure of all these bad boys and girls. They are comprised of 3rds and 4ths and fifths and major and minor 2nds. They can be voiced in many ways. These pages give you the definitions and names. Musical fundamentals and symbols have been described over the centuries with a lot of terms that relate to periods of "common practice." The language and symbols can be confusing. I have tried to use the language that is most current and accurate. This is an evolving area of music study. The material can be built from any of the 12 tones of the Western Diatonic system. Much to learn. Bring your lunch. This might take awhile. lol