

Dominant 7th chord, V7

Guitar

The musical notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time. It shows a sequence of chords: 1. A Major Triad (C-E-G) in the first measure. 2. A Dominant 7th chord (C-E-G-Bb) in the second measure. 3. A C7 - F chord (C-E-G-Bb-F) in the third measure. The notation includes stems and beams for the notes, and rests for the other parts of the chord. Above the staff, three boxes label the chords: 'Major Triad' above the first measure, 'Dominant 7' above the second measure, and 'C7 - F' above the third measure. A small '8' is written below the first measure.

There are several types of 7th chords, the most common throughout all genres of music is the Dominant 7th chord.

To create a dominant seventh chord, a basic Major triad is taken, and one more 3rd is added. The resulting intervals are a M3_m3_m3. This creates the resting V7 - I resolution that is so prevalent in all western music.

It is important to note that the new 3rd interval will be minor, so the 7th scale degree is lowered by a half step.

This creates a diminished fifth interval between the 3rd chord tone, and the new 7th chord tone. In the example C Dominant these notes would be E - Bb. When the Dominant resolves back to one, this diminished 5th collapses to a Major 3rd.