

Seventh Chords

It's time to review/learn our seventh chords. I will list them from the most "spread out" to the most compact.

Major Seventh



= major triad + major seventh
(inverse, half-step below root)

Use uppercase roman + "M7"

I^{M7}

Dominant Seventh (aka "Major-Minor Seventh")



= major triad + minor seventh
(inverse, whole-step below root)

Use uppercase roman + "7"

V⁷

Minor Seventh



= minor triad + minor seventh
(inverse, whole-step below root)

Use lowercase roman + "7"

ii⁷

Half-Diminished Seventh



= diminished triad + minor seventh
(inverse, whole-step below root)

Use lowercase roman,
slashed circle + "7"

vii^{ø7}

Fully-Diminished Seventh



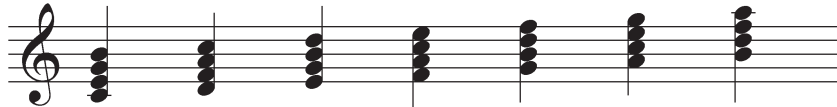
= diminished triad + diminished seventh
(inverse, augmented second below root,
same size as minor third)

Use lowercase roman,
circle + "7"

vii^{o7}

Diatonic Seventh Chords

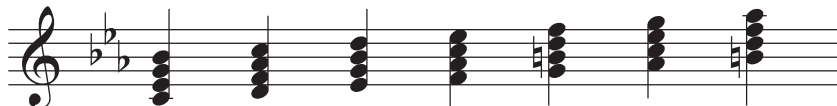
So the pattern of diatonic seventh chords in major keys is easy to figure out. Here are the roman numerals for each chord in a major key.



A musical staff in treble clef showing seven diatonic seventh chords in C major. The chords are represented by black dots on the staff lines. Below the staff, the Roman numerals are listed: I^{M7}, ii⁷, iii⁷, IV^{M7}, V⁷, vi⁷, and vii^{ø7}.

C: I^{M7} ii⁷ iii⁷ IV^{M7} V⁷ vi⁷ vii^{ø7}

And, as with triads, the addition of some accidentals makes the pattern for minor keys a little more complicated:



A musical staff in treble clef with two flats (Bb and Eb) in the key signature, representing C minor. It shows seven diatonic seventh chords. Below the staff, the Roman numerals are listed: i⁷, ii^{ø7}, III^{M7}, iv⁷, V⁷, VI^{M7}, and vii^{ø7}.

c: i⁷ ii^{ø7} III^{M7} iv⁷ V⁷ VI^{M7} vii^{ø7}