

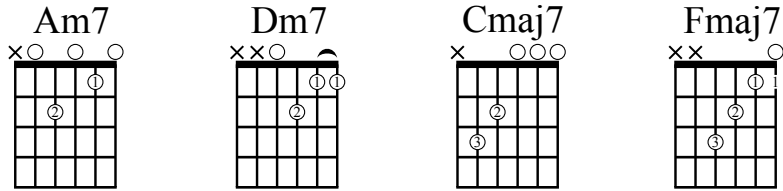
Lesson 10

Adding Notes to Chords

Before we can talk about adding notes to chords, we need to first discuss what a chord *is*, specifically. A chord is made up of three notes, and because of that, it is often called a **triad** ("3 notes"). What are these three notes? The first and most important note is the **root**. The root is the foundation of the chord and as such, the chord is named after the root. For instance, the root of a D chord is "D"; the root of an Am chord is "A". The other two notes are simply distances or, **intervals** from the root. One note is an interval of a 3rd from the root, and the other is an interval of a 5th. This is easily understood if we think of the root as "1". In an Am chord for instance, A, the root, is "1". If A is "1", C, is "3" and E is "5": **A-B-C-D-E**. These are the three notes in an Am chord.
 1 2 3 4 5

We can add more notes to the chord. The additional note is indicated not by its letter name, but by its distance from the root, just like the 3rd and 5th. For instance, if we want to add a G to the Am chord, we count its distance from A, the root: **A-B-C-D-E-F-G**. We can see that that G is a distance (or interval) of 7 steps from A. Therefore, Am + G = Am7. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Below are four new chords, which, as you will see, are simple alterations of chords that you already know, and, are easier to play!



Don't Panic

Words and Music by
Coldplay

INTRO F maj7

VERSE Am7 Cmaj7 Fmaj7 Am7 Cmaj7 Fmaj7

CHORUS Dm7 Am7 G Dm7 Fmaj7 3X

SOLO Am7 Cmaj7 Fmaj7 Am7 Cmaj7 Fmaj7

VERSE Am7 Cmaj7 Fmaj7 Am7 Cmaj7 Fmaj7