

Jazz Chord Essentials: Triads

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Standard tuning

♩ = 120

Example 1 - Chords consisting of a triad + a root note

E-Gt

mf

Cmaj7

Em

T	0	5	8	12	0	5	8	12
A	0	4	9	12	0	4	9	12
B	3	3	8	15	2	5	9	14

Cmaj7

Dm7

Em7

Fmaj7

G7

Am7

Bm7(♭5)

Cmaj7

T	5	6	8	10	12	13	15	17
A	4	5	7	9	10	12	14	16
B	3	5	7	8	10	12	14	15

5

6

7

Example 2 - Triads as chords in inversions

C

f

T	0	3	8	12	1	5	8	13	0	5	9	12	2	5	10	14	3	7	10	14	3	7	10	14
A	1	5	8	13	0	5	9	12	2	5	10	14	3	7	10	14	3	7	10	14	3	7	10	14
B	0	5	9	12	2	5	10	14	3	7	10	14	5	9	12	15	3	8	12	15	3	8	12	15

Dm

T	1	5	10	13	3	6	10	15	2	7	10	14	3	7	12	15	5	8	12	15	5	10	13	17
A	3	6	10	15	2	7	10	14	3	7	12	15	5	8	12	15	3	7	12	15	5	8	12	17
B	2	7	10	14	3	7	12	15	5	6	12	17	5	10	13	17	5	10	13	17	5	10	13	17

Bdim

T	1	7	10	13	3	6	12	15	4	7	10	16	3	9	12	15	5	8	14	17	3	9	12	15
A	3	6	12	15	4	7	10	16	3	9	12	15	5	8	14	17	3	9	12	15	5	8	14	17
B	4	7	10	16	3	9	12	15	5	8	14	17	7	10	13	19	7	10	13	19	7	10	13	19

Example 3 - Basic Cadences

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 Dm7 G7 Cmaj7

T	1	3	5	6	8	10	12	12
A	2	4	4	5	9	10	10	12
B	3	3	5	7	9	9	10	14

Example 4 - Altered dominant: use diminished triad from the 7th

D \flat 7 G7(\flat 9)

T	9	9	0	6	9	12
A	10	10	1	4	10	13
B	9	9	3	6	9	15
B	9	10				

Example 5 - Alterations, extensions and suspensions

G7

T	3	5	6	6	12	12
A	4	4	7	9	10	10
B	3	3	9	9	12	14

G7

T	3	2	6	6	12	12
A	4	4	7	6	10	10
B	3	3	9	9	12	11

T	3	3	6	6	12	13
A	4	5	7	7	10	10
B	3	3	9	10	12	12

Example 6 - 11th instead of 5 on m7 chords and major 7th chords

Dm7

T	1	1	6	6	10	8
A	2	0	5	5	10	10
B	3	3	7	5	10	10

Cmaj7

T	5	5	8	7	12	12
A	4	4	9	9	12	11
B	5	4	9	9	14	14

Cmaj7

T	5	5	8	8	12	10
A	4	2	9	9	12	12
B	5	5	9	7	14	14

Example 7 - Turnaround

Musical notation for measures 40-43. Chords: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, A7alt.

T	1	1	0	3	5	3	2	8
A	2	0	1	4	4	3	3	6
B	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	8

Musical notation for measures 44-47. Chords: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, A7alt.

T	6	6	8	10	13	11
A	5	7	9	9	12	12
B	5	9	9	9	11	11

Musical notation for measures 48-51. Chords: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, A7alt.

T	8	10	11	9	10	12	13	11
A	10	10	10	10	12	12	12	12
B	10	10	9	9	14	14	11	11

Musical notation for measures 52-55. Chords: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7.

T	10	12	10	12	7	10	8	10	(7)
A	10	10	10	10	14	13	10	10	(8)
B	10	10	10	10	14	13	10	10	9