

# Chord Construction

## Notes used in Chord Spelling

**R** **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **R** **9** **3** **11** **5** **13** **7** **R**  
 Root or Tonic    2nd (9th)    3rd    4th (11th)    5th    6th (13th)    7th    Root or Tonic    9th    3rd    11th    5th    13th    7th    Root or Tonic

$\flat 3$  Flat 3 (raised 9)     $\flat 5$  Flat 5     $\sharp 5$  Raised 5     $\flat 7$  Flat 7     $\flat 9$  Flat 9     $\sharp 9$  Raised 9     $\flat 5$  Flat 5     $\sharp 5$  Raised 5     $\flat 7$  Flat 7

## The Foundation Triads

### Major

**R** **3** **5**  
 eg:-C E G

### Minor

**R**  $\flat 3$  **5**  
 eg:-C E $\flat$  G

## The Seventh

Major 7th **R** **3** **5** **7**  
 eg:-C E G B

Minor 7th **R**  $\flat 3$  **5**  $\flat 7$   
 eg:-C E $\flat$  G B $\flat$

Dominant 7th **R** **3** **5**  $\flat 7$   
 eg:-C E G B $\flat$

Diminished 7th **R**  $\flat 3$   $\flat 5$   $\flat \flat 7$   
 eg:-C E $\flat$  G $\flat$  B $\flat\flat$

Suspended 2nd **R** **2** **5**

Minor 6th **R**  $\flat 3$  **5** **6**

Suspended 4th **R** **4** **5**

Minor 7th **R**  $\flat 3$  **5**  $\flat 7$

Major 6th **R** **3** **5** **6**

Minor 7th Flat **R**  $\flat 3$   $\flat 5$   $\flat 7$

Major 7th **R** **3** **5** **7**

\* Minor/major 7th <sup>5</sup>**R**  $\flat 3$  **5** **7**

Major 9th **R** **3** **5** **7** **9**

Minor 9th **R**  $\flat 3$  **5**  $\flat 7$  **9**

Add 9th **R** **3** **5** **9**

Minor 11th **R**  $\flat 3$  **5**  $\flat 7$  **9** **11**

6th add 9th **R** **3** **5** **6** **9**

\* Diminished 7th **R**  $\flat 3$   $\flat 5$   $\flat \flat 7$

(Dominant) 7th **R** **3** **5**  $\flat 7$

(Dominant) 9th **R** **3** **5**  $\flat 7$  **9**

(Dominant) 11th **R** **3** **5**  $\flat 7$  **9** **11**

(Dominant) 13th **R** **3** **5**  $\flat 7$  **9** **11** **13**

\* Augmented **R** **3**  $\sharp 5$

\* Augmented 7th **R** **3**  $\sharp 5$  **7**

\* Augmented 9th **R** **3**  $\sharp 5$  **7** **9**

\* Augmented 11th **R** **3** **5** **7** **9**  $\sharp 11$

\* Denotes chord built from the harmonic minor scale

In many guitar voicings the 3rd is omitted from 11th chords. The 9th is often omitted from both the 11th and 13th chord. The 11th is usually omitted from the 13th chord. The 5th may be omitted from any chord because this does not effect the major or minor quality of the chord.

## Altered chords

The 5th or the 9th of any chord may be raised or lowered. These alterations are almost always applied to the Dominant chord family. For eg:-

C7#9            R 3 5  $\flat 7$   $\sharp 9$   
 C7b9            R 3 5  $\flat 7$  b9  
 C7#5b9        R 3  $\sharp 5$   $\flat 7$  b9  
 C9b5            R 3 b5  $\flat 7$  9  
 C13 b5 b9      R 3 b5  $\flat 7$  b9 13