FACHORDS GUITAR

Chord Construction

The formula of every chord, in colors: see how chords are built.

WELCOME

How chords are built

A chord is a formula: a few intervals stacked on a root. Learn the formula and you can build the chord from any note, on any part of the neck.

Stop memorizing shapes.
Start understanding music.

What is inside

- **How chords are built**: stacking thirds, and what changes between types.
- **The formula of every chord** of the library, with a color strip of the 12 notes above the root.
- Every chord is a link to its page, with voicings in every key.

> **Free chord library**
> Each chord name links to its page in the library, with all the voicings and audio. www.fachords.com/guitar-chord/

Want to know the why?

The three FaChords books explain why things work, not only where to put your fingers: Chords Domination, Scales Over Chords and 52 Chord Progressions.

Questions? Write to band@fachords.com.
Gianca, founder of FaChords Guitar

THE BASICS

Stack thirds

Most chords are built by stacking thirds: every other note of a scale. Start from a root, take the third, the fifth, and you have a triad.

- **Major triad**: root, major third, perfect fifth, 1 3 5 (C E G).
- **Minor triad**: the third is lowered by a half step, 1 b3 5 (C Eb G).
- **Diminished triad**: minor third and a lowered fifth, 1 b3 b5 (C Eb Gb).
- **Augmented triad**: major third and a raised fifth, 1 3 #5 (C E G#).
- **Seventh chords** add a fourth note on top: a major seventh 7 or a minor (flat) seventh b7 .
- **Extensions** (9, 11, 13) are the same notes as 2, 4 and 6, one octave higher.
- **Suspended chords** replace the third with the 2nd or the 4th.

The colors are the intervals

root b2 / b9 2 / 9 b3 3 4 / 11 b5 / #11 5 #5 / b13 6 / 13 b7 7

In the tables, each circle is one of the 12 notes above the root. A colored circle is a note of the chord, a grey one is not used.

An outlined circle, like (11), and a degree in brackets in the formula, like ((11)) , is part of the full formula but **usually omitted** when you play the chord. The 11 clashes with a major 3rd, so the 11th chord drops the 3rd and the 13th chords drop the 11.

REFERENCE

The formula of every chord

Major Chords

Chord	Name	Formula	The 12 notes above the root
C	major	1 3 5	
C6	major sixth	1 3 5 6	
C6/9	six nine	1 3 5 6 9	
C6(#11)	sixth sharp eleventh	1 3 5 6 #11	
Cadd9	add nine	1 3 5 9	
Cmaj7	major seventh	1 3 5 7	
Cmaj9	major ninth	1 3 5 7 9	
Cmaj13	major thirteenth	1 3 5 7 9 (11) 13	

Minor Chords

Chord	Name	Formula	The 12 notes above the root
Cm	minor	1 b3 5	
Cm6	minor sixth	1 b3 5 6	
Cm6/9	minor six nine	1 b3 5 6 9	
Cm7	minor seventh	1 b3 5 b7	
Cm9	minor ninth	1 b3 5 b7 9	
Cm11	minor eleventh	1 b3 5 b7 9 11	
Cm13	minor thirteenth	1 b3 5 b7 9 (11) 13	
Cm(maj7)	minor major seventh	1 b3 5 7	
Cm(maj9)	minor major ninth	1 b3 5 7 9	

Dominant Chords

Chord	Name	Formula	The 12 notes above the root
C7	dominant seventh	1 3 5 b7	

C9	dominant ninth	1 3 5 b7 9	
C11	dominant eleventh	1 (3) 5 b7 9 11	
C13	dominant thirteenth	1 3 5 b7 9 (11) 13	
C7b5	seventh flat five	1 3 b5 b7	
C9b5	ninth flat five	1 3 b5 b7 9	
C7(b9)	seventh flat nine	1 3 5 b7 b9	
C7#9	seventh sharp nine	1 3 5 b7 #9	
C7(b13)	seventh flat thirteen	1 3 5 b7 b13	
C7(#11)	seventh sharp eleven	1 3 5 b7 #11	
C9(#11)	ninth sharp eleven	1 3 5 b7 9 #11	
C13(b9)	thirteenth flat nine	1 3 5 b7 b9 (11) 13	
C13(#9)	thirteenth sharp nine	1 3 5 b7 #9 (11) 13	
C13(#11)	thirteenth sharp eleven	1 3 5 b7 9 #11 13	

Diminished Chords

Chord	Name	Formula	The 12 notes above the root
Cdim	diminished	1 b3 b5	
Cdim7	diminished seventh	1 b3 b5 bb7	
Cm7b5	half-diminished	1 b3 b5 b7	

Augmented Chords

Chord	Name	Formula	The 12 notes above the root
Caug	augmented	1 3 #5	
C7#5	augmented seventh	1 3 #5 b7	
C9#5	ninth sharp five	1 3 #5 b7 9	
C13#5	thirteenth sharp five	1 3 #5 b7 9 (11) 13	
C+(#11)	augmented sharp eleven	1 3 #5 #11	

Cmaj7#5	major seventh sharp five	1 3 #5 7	

Suspended/Power Chords

Chord	Name	Formula	The 12 notes above the root
C5	power chord	1 5	
Csus2	suspended second	1 2 5	
Csus4	suspended fourth	1 4 5	
C7sus4	seventh suspended fourth	1 4 5 b7	

NEXT STEP

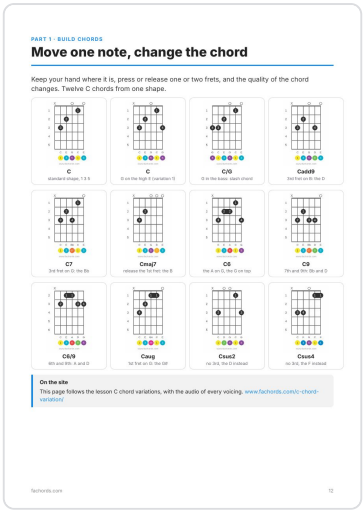
Stop memorizing shapes. Start understanding music.

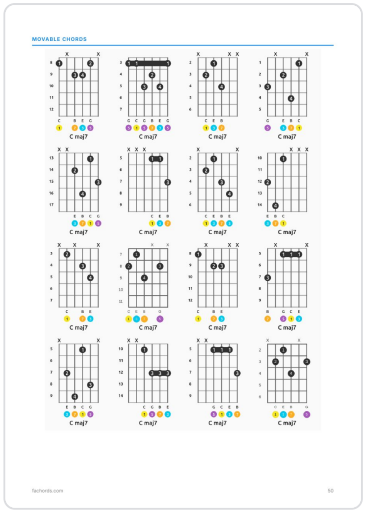
A chart tells you what to play. The FaChords books also tell you why it works, so you stop memorizing and start understanding.

Chords Domination

Not just shapes: Chords Domination explains the why. You learn how a chord is built, why each shape works and how to make any chord yourself, with about 800 voicings to practice on.

See Chords Domination





The other two books of the series:

Scales Over Chords

Not just patterns: Scales Over Chords explains the why. You learn which scale fits which chord and the reason it sounds right, with 42 chord-to-scale tables.

See Scales Over Chords →

52 Chord Progressions

Not just chord lists: 52 Chord Progressions explains the why. You learn what each chord does in the key and how to change it, one progression a week, with 164 progressions in five keys.

See 52 Chord Progressions →

All three books: fachords.com/products/

KEEP GOING

Where to go next on the site

- Free chord library.
- Free scale library.
- Chord progressions.
- More free PDFs: arpeggios, scales, chords in keys and more.

About

FaChords Guitar is made by Gianca. The goal is simple: **stop memorizing shapes, start understanding music.**

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