

QUICK LESSON 19

6th November 20

7th Chords – What are they all about?

First of all here is a list of the 7th Chords:-

A7, Bb7, **B7**, **C7**, C#7, **D7**, Eb7, **E7**, **F7**, F#7, **G7**, Ab7.

We only use a few of them, I have highlighted them for you. That's enough for now!

So why do we use 7th Chords and what exactly does it mean? Well 7th Chords have nice sounding notes in the chord (nice is called consonant in music). In a C7 for instance these notes are:- C E and G But it also has another added note as well and this is not so nice sounding, that is A#. Take a look at the chart below.* Here you will see I have given each note in the scale a number. C is 1, E is 3, G is 5 and A# is 7. (So that's were the reference to 7 in the chord name comes from).

(Why have I put numbers?) Well this allows us to use the same 1 3 5 7 regardless of which 7th Chord we are using to find the notes in the chord. (See below *) *Music is mathematical, do you see the pattern?*

So by adding this 7th note the chord sounds as though its not quite right, (that's dissonant in musical terms) its sort of telling your ear that the sound should go back to being nice.

Lets quickly explore this.

Play a C7 Chord for a count of 8 and then play a C Chord for a count of 8
The C7 chords sort of wants to go to another chord.

So we use 7th Chords to create tension with the listener, their brain is willing the tune to go back to sounding nice and predictable. It hooks the listener to stay engaged with the song.

Lets play an example from a song we know so as to hear this in action.....

Blowing In The Wind

* Numbering each note in a Scale

Chord	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
C7	C	D	E	F	G	A	A#	(C 1 is our Root note of a C7)
G7	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	(G 1 is our Root note of a G7)

Going forward we will explore learning shapes for 7th Chords to form new chords.

This will introduce Barring chords for us.