

CHORDS – major 7th, 6th, 9th, and 13th chords

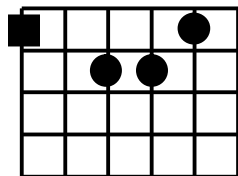
-written by David Taub

Major 7th, 6th, 9th, and 13th chords are all in the major family. You can usually tell major chords from minor chords by looking at the 3rd interval. Most major chords have a major 3rd interval while most minor chords have a flattened 3rd or b3 interval. Many major family chords are built off one another, and this principle is clearly illustrated by looking at each chord's interval structure. For example, the major seventh chord, (root, 3rd, 5th, 7th), is built off the major chord, (root, 3rd, 5th) – just add the 7th to the major. The dominant 7th chord is also built of the major by adding a b7 to the major making the formula root, 3rd, 5th, b7th. The ninth chord is then built off the 7th, (root, 3rd, 5th, b7th, 9th), – just add the 9th to the 7th.

Practice the examples below in all keys and commit the intervals to memory, as you will find them incredibly useful in everyday playing scenarios.

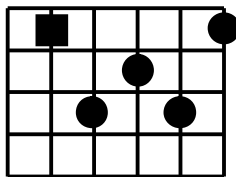
Major 7th (root, 3rd, 5th, 7th) – root notes in black squares

Maj7 – 6th string root



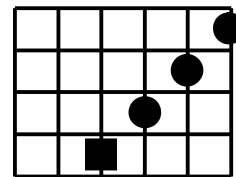
1 X 3 4 2 X

Maj7 – 5th string root



X 1 3 2 4 1

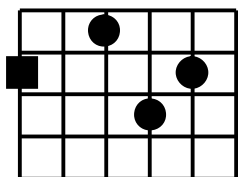
Maj7 – 4th string root



X X 4 3 2 1

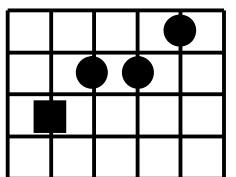
Major 6th (root, 3rd, 5th, 6th) – root notes in black squares

Maj6 – 6th string root



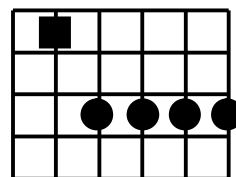
2 X 1 4 2 X

Maj6 – 5th string root



X 4 2 3 1 X

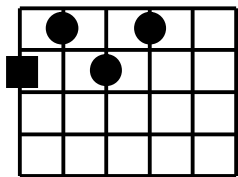
Maj6 – 4th string root



X 1 3 3 3 3

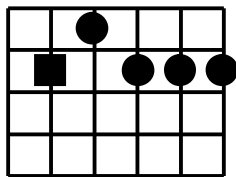
9th (root, 3rd, 5th, b7th, 9th)

9th – 6th string root



3 1 4 2 X X

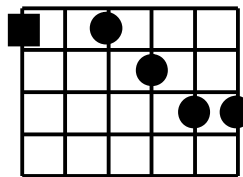
9th – 5th string root



X 2 1 3 3 3

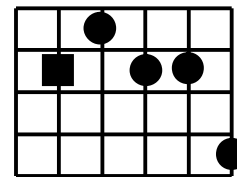
13th (root, 3rd, 5th, b7th, 9th, 13th)

13th – 6th string root



1 X 2 3 4 4

13th – 5th string root



X 2 1 3 3 4