

CHORDS – Open position dominant 7th chords -written by David Taub

There are many different types of seventh chords, i.e. the dominant 7th, major 7th, minor 7th, diminished 7th, 7 #9s, etc. There are so many types because a variety of 7ths can be added to a variety of chords. When first studying 7th chords they can be a bit confusing. In this lesson we are going to examine the very popular dominant 7th chord. These are written out with just a “7” next to the major chord letter i.e. A7, C7, Bb7, F#7. At times some mix up a dominant 7th chord with a major 7th chord. They are two very different chords with two very different sounds and need to be thought as separate entities. Typically the dominant 7th chord is built off the fifth or dominant degree of the major scale. The dominant 7th chord is constructed from the scale degrees of root, 3rd, 5th, and b7th. The dominant 7th is so useful and popular because it is a major chord with a very strong sound and strong resolution qualities to the ear. The dominant 7th is widely utilized in all genres of music. It has that b7 and that is what gives the chord its color – making it sound **twangy and bluesy** compared to the sweet, dreamy, and jazzy sounds of major seventh chords.

Commit the following popular open position dominant seventh chords to memory and try to incorporate them into your daily practice regimen. You will find yourself utilizing them over and over again in a myriad of different playing scenarios.

Chords - open position – 7th (root, 3rd, 5th, b7th) – root notes underlined

