

GUIDE TO THE MAGICAL V⁷ CHORD

- The dominant 7th chord is formed by adding the 7th scale tone to a chord and diminishing it (dropping it down a half step)
- It is an unstable, dissonant, restless sounding chord - it begs to be resolved!
- Because 7ths need to be resolved and create auditory tension, they drive the music forward - basically give it a push, usually back to the tonic (root of scale/1st scale tone).
- The most common way to resolve a 7th is one fifth below
 - G⁷ resolves to C
 - D⁷ resolves to G
 - C⁷ resolves to F
- They basically create a nice feedback loop of dissonance and resolution to the tonic based on the fifth (which is the interval our ears adore and the basis of the modern music system and most ancient ones as well).
- They are often the penultimate chord in a song as they give it a final push of dissonance before a nice satisfying resolve to the tonic or I (on which any song in a given key must generally end, ie. a song in the key of C Major must end on a C Major chord).
- 7ths are four note chords which is generally obnoxious to try to play, so they are usually inverted into a three note chord that aligns nicely with the I chord in root position.

The image displays a musical staff with two systems of staves (treble and bass clefs) and a grand staff bracket on the left. Above the staff, five chords are labeled: C, F, C, G⁷, and C. Below the staff, the same five chords are labeled: C, F, C, G⁷, and C. The notation shows the following chord voicings:

- C (C Major):** Treble clef: C4, E4, G4; Bass clef: C3, E3, G3.
- F (F Major):** Treble clef: C4, F4, A4; Bass clef: C3, F3, A3.
- C (C Major):** Treble clef: C4, E4, G4; Bass clef: C3, E3, G3.
- G⁷ (G Dominant 7th):** Treble clef: B4, D5, F5; Bass clef: G3, B3, D4.
- C (C Major):** Treble clef: C4, E4, G4; Bass clef: C3, E3, G3.