

Music – Chords, a bit about

Chord theory can be quite complex but here is some basic information that may help.

The chords that we play are mostly a major triad. They consist of three notes, The first, the third, and the fifth notes of the scale. In the scale of D for example we have the root note of D as the first then F# as the third and A as the fifth.

So the notes used in a D major chord are D F# and A.

Although we finger most of the strings we are only playing those three notes. All of our major chords shapes follow this method. In the C for example the chords notes are C E and F, the first the third and the fifth notes in the scale of C.

Notes in the D scale and their numbering.

D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th

Notes in the C scale and their numbering.

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th

Simplified; to create a Major D7 chord we add another note to the D chord, the 7th note from the D major scale which is C#.

So the notes used in a D7 chord are D F# A C#

Major or minor – we have seen the major scale and its significance is where the half steps are. A minor scale is similar but the half steps are moved being between the 2nd and 3rd and between the 5th and 6th.

Major chord plays 1, 3, 5

Minor chords play 1, flat3, 5

Diminished - similar to minor chord but has one flattened 3, and a flattened 5

Augmented – a major chord that has a sharpened fifth

Suspended fourth chord uses 1, 4, and 5 instead of a 1, 3, 5. So it has a sharpened third.

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