



## 7th Chords in Major Keys

by John Falstrom

As a Bassist, you must eventually play and understand, seventh chord, on your bass. Here's how they appear in all 15 major keys.

Here are the seven chords in major keys as seventh chords:

### Chords in Major Key Seventh Chord Names Seventh Chord Types

I	The Imaj7 Chord	Major 7th
ii	The ii7 Chord	Minor 7th
iii	The iii7 Chord	Minor 7th
IV	The IV maj7 Chord	Major 7th
V	The V7 Chord	Dominant 7th
vi	The vi7 Chord	Minor 7th
viio	The viio7	Half Diminished 7th

What dictates the seventh chord types is that the 7th note from each chord must be in the major key. Therefore:

- The I and the IV are major 7th chords.
- The V is a dominant 7th chord.
- The ii, iii, and vi are minor 7th chords.
- The viio is a half diminished 7th chord.



## Playing Seventh Chords in Major Keys – Arpeggio Style

Here is a chart example of how to play arpeggio forms on each one of the seven seventh chords in a major key:

Seventh Chords in Major Key	Arpeggio Form
Imaj7	R, 3,5,7,8,7,5,3,R
ii7	R,b3,5,b7,8,b7,5,b3,R
iii7	R,b3,5,b7,8,b7,5,b3,R
IVmaj7	R,3,5,7,8,7,5,3R
V7	R,3,5,b7,8,b7,5,3,R
vi7	R,b3,5,b7,8,b7,5,b3,R
vii7	R,b3,b5,b7,8,b7,b5,b3,R

There is an infinite amount of different ways to play arpeggio forms on the seven seventh chords in a major key (e.g., inversions, notes below the root, different rhythm combinations, etc.).

Play arpeggio forms on the seven seventh chords in each major key; circle of fifths order.

Note: Each one of the seven seventh chords in a major key could always be altered. Borrowed seventh chords are also used.

Summary: Seventh chords are just as important as Basic Chords. I would definitely play/memorize and analyze all seven seventh chords in each of the 15 major keys-----without doubt.

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