

The basic chords in the key of C major are constructed using the notes of the C major scale. The seven different notes of the C major scale (C, D, E, F, G, A and B) are each used as a bass note upon which a chord is formed. (See Dollar Lessons 4 and 5 to learn about all twelve major keys.)

The chords formed upon the first six notes of the scale are the most frequently used chords. Although the diminished chord built on the seventh note of the scale is less frequent, it quite often functions as a 5⁷ chord. In the key of C major this would be a G7. In the chord charts below, the G7 chord will be listed in the “additional chords” list.

The additional chords are common additions to the basic chords. These are chords that will either have other notes added or will use notes within the basic chord that are altered up or down a

The Chord Types	Maj.	Min.	Min.	Maj.	Min.	Min.	Dim.
Universal Chord Numbers	1	2-	3-	4	5	6-	7° 8
Chords in the Key of C Major	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B° C

The Basic Chords

Universal Chord Numbers → 1 2- 3- 4 5 6-

C **Dm** **Em** **F** **G** **Am**

The Additional Chords

Universal Chord Numbers → 1⁷ 2⁷ 3⁷ 4- 5⁷ 6⁷

C7 **D7** **E7** **Fm** **G7** **A7**

Helps for “F”

If you are having trouble playing the F chord, try putting your first finger (the barring finger) on last.

Also, you can play a smaller F chord. Here are three simpler versions.

Being able to play bar chords is very important. Work at it!!

4 4 4

F **F** **F**