

Diatonic seventh chords are reviewed below. Notice the chords of major seventh (M7 or maj7) and minor seventh (m7). When the chord is a major seventh, both the third and the seventh are major. In a minor seventh chord, both the third and the seventh are minor. The dominant seventh chord (V) is a combination of a major third and a minor seventh. The leading tone chord (VII) has both a minor third and a minor seventh. It is the only chord with a diminished fifth measured from the root.

The triads of the chords are compared to the sevenths. Just as with thirds and sevenths, when both intervals are major, the chord is called a major seventh. When both the triad and the seventh are minor, it is called a minor seventh.

The seven diatonic seventh chords that occur automatically in every major key are given below. Their structure is always the same.

The diatonic seventh chords are grouped by similar construction. I and IV are major sevenths. II, III, and VI are minor sevenths. V and VII both contain the diminished fifth from the seventh up to the fourth step in the scale.