

AJ Wednesday Open Jam - Handout no: 7

Dominant seventh chord

Hello everyone.

Hope you all are safe and well

For this handout I'd like us to continue to look at **seventh chords**. In a previous handout we looked at the Major 7th and used Cmaj7 as an example.

In this handout I'd like us to take a look at the dominant 7th chords, most commonly referred to as simply 7 chords .

I'd like to use **C7 (C dominant 7)** as an example and look at the difference between that and Cmaj7.

Lets have a look at the notes in this chords:

C7

C, E, G and Bb

You may be asking why it has a Bb and not B natural; as B natural would be the 7th note of the C major scale and there isn't a Bb in the C major scale.

Well this is because C7 is actually functioning as a **5 chord**

What do I mean by a 5 chord?...

The first note of C7 is C which is actually the 5th note of the F major scale.

F major scale

F, G, A, Bb, C, D, E

So if we look at the F major scale, you'll notice that it contains a Bb. If we look at our C dominant 7th again we can see that where the Bb comes from.

C7 is functioning as the 5th Chord in the key of F major

That's way it's also called C dominant 7th, as dominant (in music terminology) is another name for 5.

Now let's have a look at our Cmaj7 chord again and the notes within it.

C Major 7

C, E, G and B

You'll notice that all the notes in this chord are in the C major scale and that B (natural) is the 7th note of the scale.

Cmaj7 is a **1 chord**. Which means it's first chord in the key of C major.

We'll take a look at all the chords in the key of C major and F major in another handout soon.

For now I hope that explains what dominant 7th chords are and how they function.

I'll be back with another handout soon.

Until then take care.

Stay safe!

AJ