

Chords

Chords are built and named using the Intervals from the Root Note up to the notes that are contained in the Chord. When applied to Chords, the Intervals have abbreviated names, which are called Chord Degrees. The Chord Degree names are related to their Intervals in the following table. In the "Color on Diagram" column, b or # in front of a Color means 1 semitone lower or higher on the fretboard than the color shown on the Fretboard Positions Diagram and the Reference Diagrams.

Chord Degrees

<u>Color on Diagram</u>	<u>Chord Degree</u>	<u>Interval Name Up from Root Note</u>	<u>Interval Semitones</u>	<u>Sample</u>
Red	1 (root)	unison	0	Root D
*	*	minor second	1	D#
Orange	2 (second)	major second	2	E
bOrange	b3 (flat third)	minor third	3	F
Yellow	3 (third)	major third	4	F#
Green	4 (fourth)	perfect fourth	5	G
bBlue	b5 (flat fifth)	diminished 5th, tritone	6	G#
Blue	5 (fifth)	perfect fifth	7	A
#Blue	#5 (sharp fifth)	augmented fifth	8	A#
Purple	6 (sixth)	major sixth	9	B
bBrown	b7 (**flat seventh)	minor seventh	10	C
Brown	7 (seventh)	major seventh	11	C#
*	*	octave	12	D
bOrange	b9 (flat ninth)	minor ninth	13	D#
Orange	9 (ninth)	major ninth	14	E
#Orange	#9 (sharp ninth)	augmented ninth	15	F
*	*	major tenth	16	F#
Green	11 (eleventh)	perfect eleventh	17	G
#Green	#11 (sharp eleventh)	augmented eleventh	18	G#
*	*	perfect twelfth	19	A
bPurple	b13 (flat thirteenth)	minor thirteenth	20	A#
Purple	13 (thirteenth)	major thirteenth	21	B
*	*	minor fourteenth	22	C
*	*	major fourteenth	23	C#
*	*	double octave	24	D

*Not valid for Chord Degrees or Naming Chords

**Also known as dominant seventh

The Chord Degrees table above goes through a single octave, then after the first octave it shows extended Intervals up to the double octave. In practice, the 9th, 11th and 13th Intervals are used to name extended Chords. Other than using those three Intervals for Chord Degree names, the extended Interval names are not normally used. It's worth noting that the b2 and b9, 2 and 9, #2 and #9, 4 and 11, b5 and #11, #5 and b13, and the 6 and 13 Chord Degrees are identical to one another but an octave difference in pitch.

When three or more Chord Degrees are combined together, a Chord is formed. A Triad is a Chord containing three Chord Degrees. Chords having four or more Chord Degrees are known as Extended Chords. The 5 Chord and the b5 Chord are exceptions in that they contain two Chord Degrees.