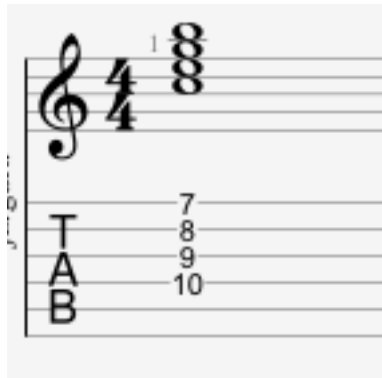




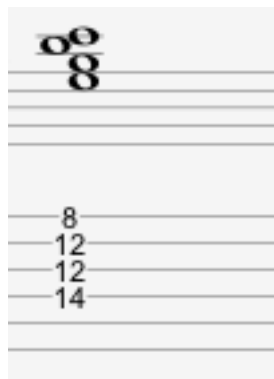
Drop 2 Chord Shapes for Guitar

Most keyboard players learn various 7th chord concepts by playing them in **closed position**. This means that all 4 notes of the chord are adjacent as seen in the following examples of a C Major 7 Chord. Take note of how difficult some of the following examples are to play on the guitar.

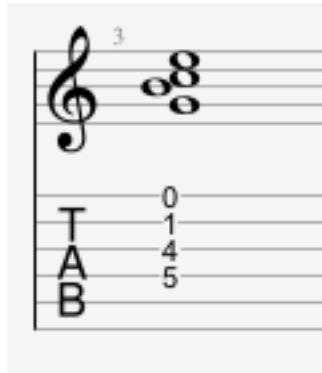
This **root position** (root in the bass) C major 7 chord isn't that bad of a voicing on the guitar, and is actually common. We will see how uncomfortable its inversions are.



Here's the same chord in **1st inversion** (3rd in the bass). This one is painful! Ouch!



Here's one in **2nd inversion** (5th in the bass). As you can see, it's not any friendlier than the last one.



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a triplet of three notes. The notes are G4, A4, and B4. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with the following fret numbers: 0, 1, 4, 5.

Finally, we have the chord in **3rd inversion** (7th in the bass). Another terrible shape for the fingers. Let's take the all these examples and see how we can turn them into Drop 2 voicings.



The image shows two musical staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a triplet of three notes: G4, A4, and B4. The bottom staff has a bass clef and a triplet of three notes: G2, A2, and B2.

To put a closed position chord in a drop 2 voicing, all we have to do is take the 2nd to highest note and put it in the bass. Let's do this with the previous examples, as well as explore other 7th chord qualities.

The image shows musical notation for a Major 7 chord in root inversion. It is divided into two sections: "Drop 2 (Move second highest note down an octave)" and "Better fingering".

Drop 2 (Move second highest note down an octave): The first diagram shows a closed position Major 7 chord with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F. The second diagram shows the result of moving the second highest note (A) down an octave, resulting in notes G, G, B, C, D, E, F.

Better fingering: The first diagram shows a closed position Major 7 chord with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F. The second diagram shows a better fingering for the drop 2 voicing, with notes G, G, B, C, D, E, F.

Fingering numbers are provided below the notes:

String	Drop 2 (Move second highest note down an octave)	Better fingering
7	7	8
8	7	12
9	9	9
10	10	10
11	10	10
12	10	10

Above we have the root inversion Major 7 chord in the first example. We've simply taken the 2nd to highest note (G) and dropped it down an octave. Then we re-fingered to put the notes on adjacent strings.

Let's do the same thing to a dominant 7 chord now.

The image shows musical notation for a dominant 7 chord (C7). It is divided into two sections: "C 7" and "Drop 2", followed by "better fingerings".

C 7: The first diagram shows a closed position C7 chord with notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B. The second diagram shows the result of moving the second highest note (D) down an octave, resulting in notes C, C, D, E, F, G, A.

Drop 2: The first diagram shows a closed position C7 chord with notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B. The second diagram shows the result of moving the second highest note (D) down an octave, resulting in notes C, C, D, E, F, G, A.

better fingerings: The first diagram shows a closed position C7 chord with notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B. The second diagram shows a better fingering for the drop 2 voicing, with notes C, C, D, E, F, G, A.

Fingering numbers are provided below the notes:

String	C 7	Drop 2	better fingerings
6	10	6	11
7	10	6	11
8	10	9	9
9	10	10	10
10	10	10	10
11	10	10	10
12	10	10	10

Here is a minor 7 chord turned into a drop 2 voicing.

Musical notation for Cm7 chord and its drop 2 voicing with better fingerings. The notation shows the chord structure on a five-line staff with fingerings indicated below.

Chord	Fingering
Cm7	6, 8, 8, 10
Drop 2	6, 8, 10, 10
better fingerings	11, 8, 10, 10
better fingerings	6, 4, 5, 5

minor 7 b5 (half-diminished)

Musical notation for m7(b5) chord and its drop 2 voicing with better fingerings. The notation shows the chord structure on a five-line staff with fingerings indicated below.

Chord	Fingering
m7 (b5)	6, 7, 8, 10
Drop 2	6, 8, 10, 9
Better Fingerings	11, 8, 10, 9
Better Fingerings	6, 4, 5, 4

Finally, a diminished 7 chord.

Musical notation for dim 7 chord and its drop 2 voicing with better fingerings. The notation shows the chord structure on a five-line staff with fingerings indicated below.

Chord	Fingering
dim 7	5, 7, 8, 10
Drop 2	5, 8, 10, 9
Better fingerings	10, 8, 10, 9
Better fingerings	5, 4, 5, 4

We can now do the same thing with the closed 1st inversion chord shapes. We will not need to do the diminished 7 shape again since it is the same shape.

C Maj7 **Drop 2** **Better fingerings**

Diagram illustrating the C Major 7 chord (C Maj7) in three different shapes: the standard shape, the Drop 2 shape, and two variations of 'Better fingerings'. Each shape is shown on a five-line staff with fingerings indicated by numbers 1-4. Below each staff, the fret numbers for each string are listed.

Standard	Drop 2	Better fingerings (1)	Better fingerings (2)
8	8	13	8
12	12	12	8
12	14	14	9
14	14	14	9

C7 **Drop 2** **Better Fingerings**

Diagram illustrating the C7 chord in three different shapes: the standard shape, the Drop 2 shape, and two variations of 'Better Fingerings'. Each shape is shown on a five-line staff with fingerings indicated by numbers 1-4. Below each staff, the fret numbers for each string are listed.

Standard	Drop 2	Better Fingerings (1)	Better Fingerings (2)
8	8	13	8
11	12	12	8
12	14	14	8
14	13	13	8

Cmin7 **Drop 2** **Better fingerings**

Diagram illustrating the C minor 7 chord (Cmin7) in three different shapes: the standard shape, the Drop 2 shape, and two variations of 'Better fingerings'. Each shape is shown on a five-line staff with fingerings indicated by numbers 1-4. Below each staff, the fret numbers for each string are listed.

Standard	Drop 2	Better fingerings (1)	Better fingerings (2)
8	8	13	8
11	12	12	8
12	13	13	8
13	13	13	8

C min7 b5 **Drop 2** **Better fingerings**

Diagram illustrating the C minor 7 flat 5 chord (C min7 b5) in three different shapes: the standard shape, the Drop 2 shape, and two variations of 'Better fingerings'. Each shape is shown on a five-line staff with fingerings indicated by numbers 1-4. Below each staff, the fret numbers for each string are listed.

Standard	Drop 2	Better fingerings (1)	Better fingerings (2)
8	8	13	8
11	11	11	7
11	13	13	8
13	13	13	8

Here the closed 2nd inversion chord shapes moved to drop 2 voicings.

C maj7 **Drop 2** **Better fingerings**

37		38		39
12	12	17	5	12
13		16	4	12
16	16	17	5	12
17	15	15	3	10

C7 **Drop 2** **Better fingerings**

40		41		42
12	12	17	5	12
13		15	3	11
15	15	17	5	12
17	15	15	3	10

C min7 **Drop 2** **Better fingerings**

11		44		45
13	11	16	4	11
15	15	15	3	11
17	17	17	5	12
	15	15	3	10

C min7 b5 **Drop 2** **Better fingerings**

11		47		48
13	11	16	4	11
15	15	15	3	11
16	16	16	4	11
	15	15	3	10

Closed 3rd inversion chords moved to Drop 2.

C maj7 **Drop 2** **Better Fingerings**

52

3
5
5
9

3
5
9
7

53

8
5
9
7

54

3
1
4
2

Detailed description: This block shows the C major 7 chord in standard and Drop 2 tuning. The standard chord (52) has notes C4, E4, G4, Bb4 on a six-string guitar. The Drop 2 version (53) has notes C4, E4, G4, Bb4, C5, E5. The 'Better Fingerings' (54) version has notes C4, E4, G4, Bb4, C5, E5 with a different fingering scheme.

C7 **Drop 2** **better fingerings**

55

3
5
5
8

3
5
8
7

56

8
5
8
7

57

3
1
3
2

Detailed description: This block shows the C7 chord in standard and Drop 2 tuning. The standard chord (55) has notes C4, E4, G4, Bb4, F5. The Drop 2 version (56) has notes C4, E4, G4, Bb4, C5, F5. The 'better fingerings' (57) version has notes C4, E4, G4, Bb4, C5, F5 with a different fingering scheme.

C min7 **Drop 2** **Better Fingerings**

58

3
4
5
8

3
5
8
6

59

8
5
8
6

60

3
1
3
1

Detailed description: This block shows the C minor 7 chord in standard and Drop 2 tuning. The standard chord (58) has notes C4, Eb4, F4, Ab4, Gb5. The Drop 2 version (59) has notes C4, Eb4, F4, Ab4, C5, Gb5. The 'Better Fingerings' (60) version has notes C4, Eb4, F4, Ab4, C5, Gb5 with a different fingering scheme.

C min7 b5 **Drop 2** **Better Fingerings**

61

2
4
5
8

2
5
8
6

62

7
5
8
6

63

2
1
3
1

Detailed description: This block shows the C minor 7 flat 5 chord in standard and Drop 2 tuning. The standard chord (61) has notes C4, Eb4, Fb4, Ab4, Gb5. The Drop 2 version (62) has notes C4, Eb4, Fb4, Ab4, C5, Gb5. The 'Better Fingerings' (63) version has notes C4, Eb4, Fb4, Ab4, C5, Gb5 with a different fingering scheme.

A great way to get proficient in these shapes is to play inversions of the same chord in succession. This will help you visualize the chords, and connect them in your mind. Here are the C Major 7 shapes. Try to target the root note (C) of each chord before you play it. This will help.

C maj7

67

TAB: 5 4 5 3

68

TAB: 12 9 10 10

13 12 14 14

Detailed description: This block shows two musical examples of C major 7 chords. The first example, labeled 67, shows a treble clef staff with a C major 7 chord shape (C-E-G-B) and a corresponding guitar tab with frets 5, 4, 5, and 3. The second example, labeled 68, shows a treble clef staff with a C major 7 chord shape (C-E-G-B) and a corresponding guitar tab with frets 12, 9, 10, and 10. The tab for 68 is split across two lines: the first line has 12, 9, 10 and the second line has 10, 13, 12, 14.

69

TAB: 17 16 17 15

70

TAB: 12 9 10 10

13 12 14 14

8 7 10 10

Detailed description: This block shows two musical examples of C major 7 chords. The first example, labeled 69, shows a treble clef staff with a C major 7 chord shape (C-E-G-B) and a corresponding guitar tab with frets 17, 16, 17, and 15. The second example, labeled 70, shows a treble clef staff with a C major 7 chord shape (C-E-G-B) and a corresponding guitar tab with frets 12, 9, 10, and 10. The tab for 70 is split across two lines: the first line has 12, 9, 10 and the second line has 10, 13, 12, 14.

73

TAB: 3 1 4 2

74

TAB: 8 8 8 8

12 12 12 10

Detailed description: This block shows two musical examples of C major 7 chords. The first example, labeled 73, shows a treble clef staff with a C major 7 chord shape (C-E-G-B) and a corresponding guitar tab with frets 3, 1, 4, and 2. The second example, labeled 74, shows a treble clef staff with a C major 7 chord shape (C-E-G-B) and a corresponding guitar tab with frets 8, 8, 8, and 8. The tab for 74 is split across two lines: the first line has 8, 8, 8 and the second line has 8, 12, 12, 10.

75

TAB: 15 13 16 14

76

TAB: 8 8 8 8

7 5 5 5

Detailed description: This block shows two musical examples of C major 7 chords. The first example, labeled 75, shows a treble clef staff with a C major 7 chord shape (C-E-G-B) and a corresponding guitar tab with frets 15, 13, 16, and 14. The second example, labeled 76, shows a treble clef staff with a C major 7 chord shape (C-E-G-B) and a corresponding guitar tab with frets 8, 8, 8, and 8. The tab for 76 is split across two lines: the first line has 8, 8, 8 and the second line has 8, 7, 5, 5.

C7 shapes

C7

Musical notation for C7 chord shapes 77, 78, and 13. Shape 77 is in the key of F major (one flat). Shape 78 is in the key of Bb major (two flats). Shape 13 is in the key of Bb major (two flats).

T	5	8	11	13
A	3	5	9	12
B	3	7	10	14
			10	13

Musical notation for C7 chord shapes 79, 80, and 8. Shape 79 is in the key of Bb major (two flats). Shape 80 is in the key of Bb major (two flats). Shape 8 is in the key of Bb major (two flats).

T	17	13	11	8
A	15	12	9	5
B	17	14	10	8
	15	13	10	7

C7

Musical notation for C7 chord shapes 83, 84, and 12. Shape 83 is in the key of F major (one flat). Shape 84 is in the key of Bb major (two flats). Shape 12 is in the key of Bb major (two flats).

T	3	6	8	12
A	1	5	8	11
B	3	5	8	12
	2			10

Musical notation for C7 chord shapes 85, 86, and 6. Shape 85 is in the key of Bb major (two flats). Shape 86 is in the key of Bb major (two flats). Shape 6 is in the key of Bb major (two flats).

T	15	12	8	6
A	13	11	8	5
B	15	12	8	5
	14	10	8	5

C min7 shapes

C-7

89

T	4	8	11	13
A	3	5	8	12
B	5	8	10	13
	3	6	10	13

91

T	16	13	11	8
A	15	12	8	5
B	17	13	10	8
	15	13	10	6

C-7

95

T	3	6	8	11
A	1	4	8	11
B	3	5	8	12
	1	5	8	10

97

T	15	11	8	6
A	13	11	8	4
B	15	12	8	5
	13	10	8	5

C min7 b5 (Half-Diminished) shapes

C -7 (b5)

T	4	7	11	13
A	3	5	8	11
B	4	8	10	13
B	3	6	9	13

T	16	13	11	7
A	15	11	8	5
B	16	13	10	8
B	15	13	9	6

C -7 (b5)

T	2	6	8	11
A	1	4	7	11
B	3	5	8	11
B	1	4	8	10

T	14	11	8	6
A	13	11	7	4
B	15	11	8	5
B	13	10	8	4

C diminished 7 shape

C dim7

115			
T	4	7	10
A	2	5	8
B	4	7	10
B	3	6	9

117			
T	16	13	10
A	14	11	8
B	16	13	10
B	15	12	9

C dim7

123			
T	2	5	8
A	1	4	7
B	2	5	8
B	1	4	7

125			
T	14	11	8
A	13	10	7
B	14	11	8
B	13	10	7

- Half Step Magic Pt. 1

One cool thing about a diminished 7th chord shape is is that you can raise any note a half step and make a half diminished chord. Check out these examples.

Example 1: C dim7 and F#-7 (b5)

The first diagram shows two chord shapes. The first is C dim7, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is F#-7 (b5), with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are F#, Eb, D, and C. Below each chord is a guitar tablature with four strings shown, with fret numbers 11, 10, 11, and 10.

Example 2: C dim7 and C-7 (b5)

The second diagram shows two chord shapes. The first is C dim7, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is C-7 (b5), with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, G, and F. Below each chord is a guitar tablature with four strings shown, with fret numbers 11, 10, 11, and 10.

Example 3: C dim7 and A dim7 (b5)

The third diagram shows two chord shapes. The first is C dim7, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is A dim7 (b5), with a treble clef and a key signature of no sharps or flats. The notes are Gb, F, Eb, and D. Below each chord is a guitar tablature with four strings shown, with fret numbers 11, 10, 11, and 10.

Example 4: C dim7 and Eb-7 (b5)

The fourth diagram shows two chord shapes. The first is C dim7, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is Eb-7 (b5), with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are D, C, Bb, and Ab. Below each chord is a guitar tablature with four strings shown, with fret numbers 11, 10, 11, and 10.

- Half Step Magic Pt. 2

Another thing about a diminished 7th chord shape is that you can lower any note a half step and make a dominant 7th chord. Check out these examples.

135

C dim7 B 7

TAB

11	11
10	10
11	11
10	9

Detailed description: This block shows two guitar chord diagrams. The first is for a C diminished 7th chord (C dim7), with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is for a B7 chord, with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The notes are B, D#, F#, and G. Below each chord is a TAB line with fret numbers for each string.

36

C dim7 F 7

TAB

11	11
10	10
11	10
10	10

Detailed description: This block shows two guitar chord diagrams. The first is for a C diminished 7th chord (C dim7), with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is for an F7 chord, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are F, Ab, Cb, and Eb. Below each chord is a TAB line with fret numbers for each string.

137

C dim7 Ab 7

TAB

11	11
10	9
11	11
10	10

Detailed description: This block shows two guitar chord diagrams. The first is for a C diminished 7th chord (C dim7), with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is for an Ab7 chord, with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats. The notes are Ab, Gb, Fb, and Eb. Below each chord is a TAB line with fret numbers for each string.

38

C dim7 D 7

TAB

11	10
10	10
11	11
10	10

Detailed description: This block shows two guitar chord diagrams. The first is for a C diminished 7th chord (C dim7), with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is for a D7 chord, with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The notes are D, F#, A#, and C. Below each chord is a TAB line with fret numbers for each string.