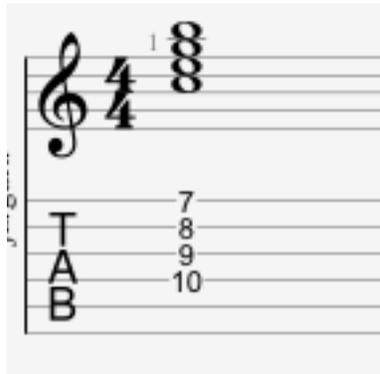




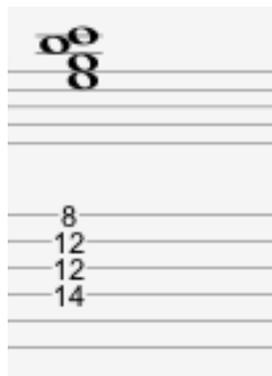
Drop 2 Chord Shapes for Guitar

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.

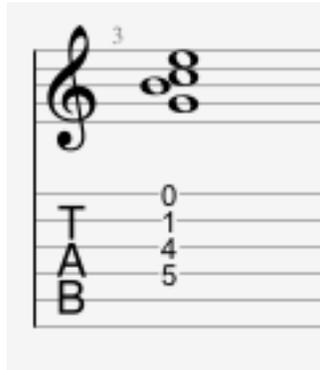
This **root position** (root in the bass) C major 7 chord isn't that bad of a voicing on the guitar, and is actually common. We will see how uncomfortable its inversions are.



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.



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.



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 a musical staff with two systems of notation. The first system is labeled "Drop 2 (Move second highest note down an octave)" and shows a closed position Major 7 chord with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F. The second system is labeled "Better fingering" and shows the same chord with the notes rearranged to G, A, C, B, D, E, F. The fingering for the first system is 7, 8, 9, 10 on the lower strings and 7 on the higher strings. The fingering for the second system is 12, 9, 10, 10 on the lower strings and 7, 5, 5, 5 on the higher strings.

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 refingered to put the notes on adjacent strings.

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

The image shows a musical staff with two systems of notation. The first system is labeled "C 7" and shows a closed position dominant 7 chord with notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B. The second system is labeled "Drop 2" and shows the same chord with the notes rearranged to C, D, G, F, A, B, E. The third system is labeled "better fingerings" and shows the same chord with the notes rearranged to C, D, G, F, A, B, E. The fingering for the first system is 10, 8, 9, 10 on the lower strings and 6 on the higher strings. The fingering for the second system is 6, 9, 10, 10 on the lower strings and 6 on the higher strings. The fingering for the third system is 11, 9, 10, 10 on the lower strings and 6, 5, 5, 5 on the higher strings.

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

Cm7	Drop 2	better fingerings	
6 8 8 10	6 8 10 10	11 8 10 10	6 4 5 5

minor 7 b5 (half-diminished)

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

Finally, a diminished 7 chord.

dim 7	Drop 2	Better fingerings	
5 7 8 10	5 8 10 9	10 8 10 9	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**

Standard: 21, 8, 12, 12, 14
 Drop 2: 8, 12, 14, 14
 Better fingerings: 23, 13, 12, 14, 14
 Further: 24, 8, 8, 9, 9

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

Standard: b, 8, 11, 12, 14
 Drop 2: b, 8, 12, 14, 13
 Better Fingerings: 26, b, 13, 12, 14, 13
 Further: 27, b, 8, 8, 8

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

Standard: b, b, 8, 11, 12, 13
 Drop 2: b, 8, 12, 13, 13
 Better fingerings: 29, b, b, 13, 12, 13
 Further: 30, b, b, 8, 8, 8

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

Standard: b, b, b, 8, 11, 11, 13
 Drop 2: b, 8, 11, 13, 13
 Better fingerings: 32, b, b, 13, 11, 13
 Further: 33, b, b, 8, 7, 8, 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**

44

45

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

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

46

47

48

11	11	16	4	11
13		15	3	11
15	15	16	4	11
16	15	15	3	10

Closed 3rd inversion chords moved to Drop 2.

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

52 | 53 | 54

3 5 5 4 | 3 5 4 2 | 3 1 4 2

3 5 5 4 | 3 5 4 2 | 3 1 4 2

3 5 5 4 | 3 5 4 2 | 3 1 4 2

3 5 5 4 | 3 5 4 2 | 3 1 4 2

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

55 | 56 | 57

3 5 5 8 | 3 5 8 2 | 3 1 3 2

3 5 5 8 | 3 5 8 2 | 3 1 3 2

3 5 5 8 | 3 5 8 2 | 3 1 3 2

3 5 5 8 | 3 5 8 2 | 3 1 3 2

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

58 | 59 | 60

3 4 5 8 | 3 5 8 6 | 3 1 3 1

3 4 5 8 | 3 5 8 6 | 3 1 3 1

3 4 5 8 | 3 5 8 6 | 3 1 3 1

3 4 5 8 | 3 5 8 6 | 3 1 3 1

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

61 | 62 | 63

2 4 5 8 | 2 5 8 6 | 2 1 3 1

2 4 5 8 | 2 5 8 6 | 2 1 3 1

2 4 5 8 | 2 5 8 6 | 2 1 3 1

2 4 5 8 | 2 5 8 6 | 2 1 3 1

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 fret numbers 5, 4, 5, 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 fret numbers 12, 9, 10, 10. The bottom staff of the second example shows fret numbers 13, 12, 14, 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 fret numbers 17, 16, 17, 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 fret numbers 12, 9, 10, 10. The bottom staff of the second example shows fret numbers 13, 12, 14, 14 and 8, 7, 10, 10.

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 fret numbers 3, 1, 4, 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 fret numbers 8, 8, 8, 8. The bottom staff of the second example shows fret numbers 12, 12, 12, 10.

75

TAB: 15 13 16 14

76

TAB: 8 8 8 8

12 12 12 10

7 7 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 fret numbers 15, 13, 16, 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 fret numbers 8, 8, 8, 8. The bottom staff of the second example shows fret numbers 12, 12, 12, 10 and 7, 7, 5, 5.

C7 shapes

C7

Musical notation for C7 chord shapes 77, 78, and 13. Shape 77 is in the key of C major. Shape 78 is in the key of F major. Shape 13 is in the key of C major.

Shape	T	A	B
77	5	3	3
78	8	8	7
13	11	9	10

Musical notation for C7 chord shapes 79, 80, and 8. Shape 79 is in the key of C major. Shape 80 is in the key of F major. Shape 8 is in the key of C major.

Shape	T	A	B
79	17	15	17
80	11	9	10
8	8	5	8

C7

Musical notation for C7 chord shapes 83, 84, and 12. Shape 83 is in the key of C major. Shape 84 is in the key of F major. Shape 12 is in the key of C major.

Shape	T	A	B
83	3	1	3
84	6	5	5
12	8	8	8

Musical notation for C7 chord shapes 85, 86, and 6. Shape 85 is in the key of C major. Shape 86 is in the key of F major. Shape 6 is in the key of C major.

Shape	T	A	B
85	15	13	15
86	8	8	8
6	12	11	12

C min7 shapes

C-7

89

90

TAB

4	8	11	13
3	5	8	12
5	8	10	13
3	6	10	13

91

92

TAB

16	13	11	8
15	12	8	5
17	13	10	8
15	13	10	6

C-7

95

96

TAB

3	6	8	11
1	4	8	11
3	5	8	12
1	5	8	10

97

98

TAB

15	11	8	6
13	11	8	4
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)

Diagram 129 shows two chord shapes. The first is C dim7, with notes Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is F#-7 (b5), with notes E, D, C, and B. The guitar tablature below shows the fret positions for each chord.

Chord	Fret 1	Fret 2	Fret 3	Fret 4
C dim7	11	10	11	10
F#-7 (b5)	12	10	11	10

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

Diagram 130 shows two chord shapes. The first is C dim7, with notes Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is C-7 (b5), with notes Bb, Ab, G, and F. The guitar tablature below shows the fret positions for each chord.

Chord	Fret 1	Fret 2	Fret 3	Fret 4
C dim7	11	10	11	10
C-7 (b5)	11	11	11	10

Example 3: C dim7 and A dim7 (b5)

Diagram 131 shows two chord shapes. The first is C dim7, with notes Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is A dim7 (b5), with notes G, F, E, and D. The guitar tablature below shows the fret positions for each chord.

Chord	Fret 1	Fret 2	Fret 3	Fret 4
C dim7	11	10	11	10
A dim7 (b5)	11	10	12	10

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

Diagram 132 shows two chord shapes. The first is C dim7, with notes Bb, Ab, Gb, and F. The second is Eb-7 (b5), with notes D, C, B, and Ab. The guitar tablature below shows the fret positions for each chord.

Chord	Fret 1	Fret 2	Fret 3	Fret 4
C dim7	11	10	11	10
Eb-7 (b5)	11	10	11	11

- 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. The tablature below each diagram shows the fret numbers for the strings: 11, 10, 11, 10 for C dim7 and 11, 10, 11, 9 for B7.

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. The tablature below each diagram shows the fret numbers for the strings: 11, 10, 11, 10 for C dim7 and 11, 10, 10, 10 for F7.

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 four flats. The notes are Ab, Fb, Eb, and Gb. The tablature below each diagram shows the fret numbers for the strings: 11, 10, 11, 10 for C dim7 and 11, 9, 11, 10 for Ab7.

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. The tablature below each diagram shows the fret numbers for the strings: 11, 10, 11, 10 for C dim7 and 10, 10, 11, 10 for D7.