

Eleven BBS Chords and Their Voicings

MAJOR TONALITIES - SIX CHORDS

MAJOR TRIAD 1.3.5

Strong Chord
Double root preferably
Extremely seldom double 5th
Never double third.
Bass on Root or 5th

FM triad

BARBERSHOP (or Dominant) 7th

Major Triad + b7 = 1.3.5.b7 (m3)
4 Note chord
Hallmark chord of BBS
Bass best of root & 5th

C7

MAJOR SIXTH (6th) 1.3.5.+6

4 - Note chord
Major Triad plus major 2nd
Weak Chord (modern flavor)
Check bass note to identify
Bass on root or 5th

F6

MAJOR SEVENTH (7th) 1.3.5.+7

4 Different notes
Major Triad + M3rd
Dissonant, Weak
Passing chord, melody on 7th
Bass on Root

FM7

MAJOR NINTH (9th) 1.3.5.+9

Major triad + added 9th (P5th)
Extremely weak - use in passing
Used when melody is on the 9th
Bass on Rootd

F9

DOMINANT NINTH (9th)

5 note chord - 1.3.5.b7.9
Omit root or 5th
Root omitted = same notes as m6
5th omitted = Bass on root
Root omitted = Bass on 5th-strongest

C9