

7th Chord Inversions

A study in C Major

The musical score consists of four systems, each with two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system is labeled Dmaj7 and Em7. The second system is labeled F#m7 and Gmaj7. The third system is labeled A7 and Bm7. The fourth system is labeled C#o7, Dmaj7, and D. Each system contains six measures of music, with chord shapes indicated by dots on the staff lines.

Read the chord shapes, which is easier than each individual note. Practice placing each shape until it's second nature to you. Chord symbols, for the ease of reading, are given here only at the beginning of each chord study, not every beat. If this were to be notated with more specificity, it would indicate the inversions too, which is cumbersome to read for this purpose. This exercise will help you be able to add 7th chords UNDER a melody note when reading from a lead sheet or embellishing an arrangement. The 7th chords here are those occurring naturally in the key of D major and B minor.

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