

7th Chord Inversions

A study in C Major

The musical score is divided into four systems, each showing two measures of a chord and its first inversion in 3/4 time. The chords are: Cmaj7, Dm7, Em7, Fmaj7, G7, Am7, B^o7, Cmaj7, and C. Each measure contains a treble and bass clef staff with chord shapes. Repeat signs are placed at the end of each measure.

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 C major and A minor.

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