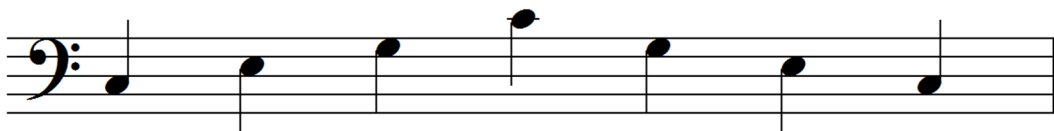




Arpeggio Reference Manual For Bass Guitar

A quick guide to chord tones
for the practicing bassist



by Mark J Smith

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Arpeggio Reference Manual for Bass Guitar

Introduction

Welcome to the *Talkingbass.net Arpeggio Reference Manual*. This short ebook is offered free to all www.talkingbass.net members and also serves as a taster for the complete *Study Book Of Chord Tones*, available through TalkingBass Media at the www.talkingbass.net store.

The arpeggio patterns are presented in a systemized way that facilitates quick and easy navigation. All scales are displayed in standard notation, tablature and as fretboard diagrams.

A recommended fingering of the fretting hand is provided between the standard notation and tablature and red circles are used on the neck diagrams to indicate the Tonic.

The shapes used for each scale are limited to the most common one octave patterns. For a more exhaustive list of scale shapes please consult the *Study Book Of Chord Tones*.

In this book I won't be delving into the basic principles of chord construction. This book is intended as a manual for quick reference and basic practice. The *Study Book Of Chord Tones* provides much more detailed information and exercises on chord construction along with a full section devoted to practice and improvisation concepts.

About The Author

Mark J Smith is a professional bass player from the UK and creator of www.talkingbass.net. During the past 20 years Mark has worked all over the UK and the World as a sideman and bandleader, performing every style of music from pop to rock to jazz to classical in ensembles ranging from trio to orchestra. As a reading sideman, Mark has worked with hundreds of acts such as Jimmy James, Susan Maughn, Peter Grant, Bucks Fizz, Ruthie Henshall, Zoe Tyler, Gerard Kenny, Iris Williams, Elaine Delmar, Barbara Dickson and many, many more.

Mark has a First Class BA(hons) Degree in Music from Leeds College Of Music and many years of experience teaching in music colleges and universities around the UK.

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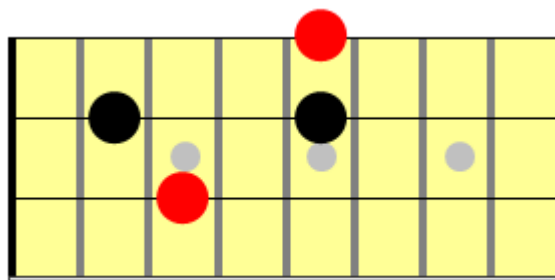
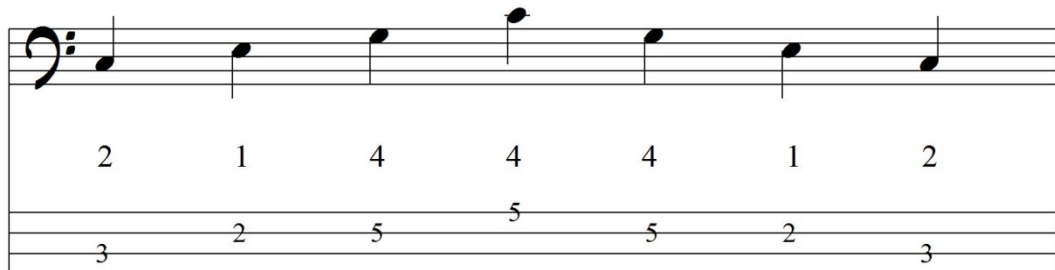
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1 - Triads

Major Triad

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5

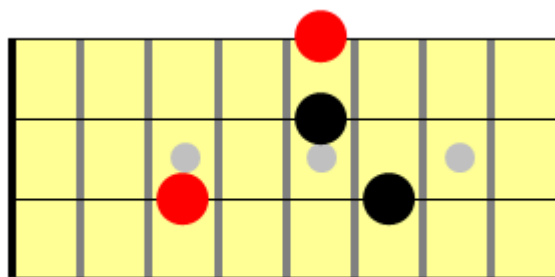
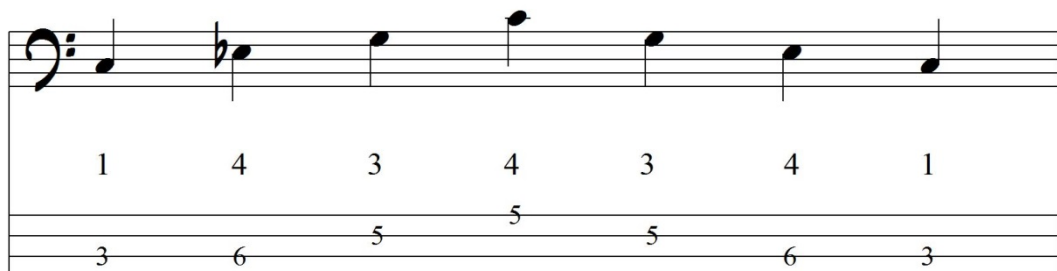
Chord Symbols (on C): C, Cmaj, CΔ



Minor Triad

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 5

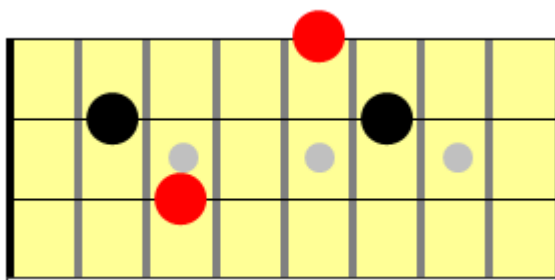
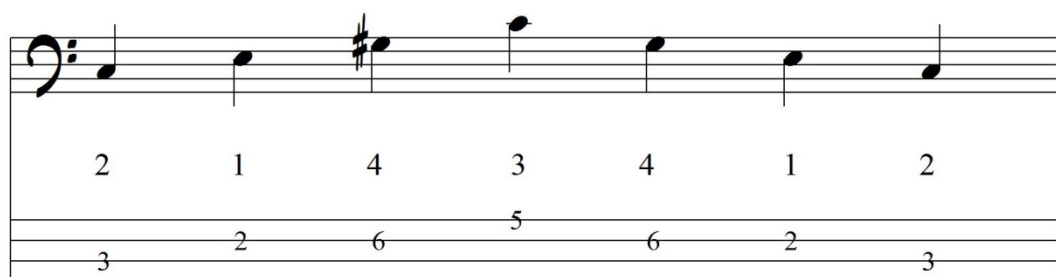
Chord Symbols (on C): Cm, Cmin, C-



Augmented Triad

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 #5

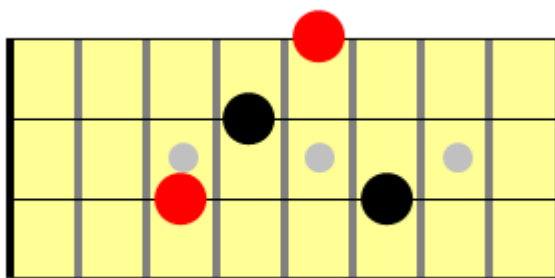
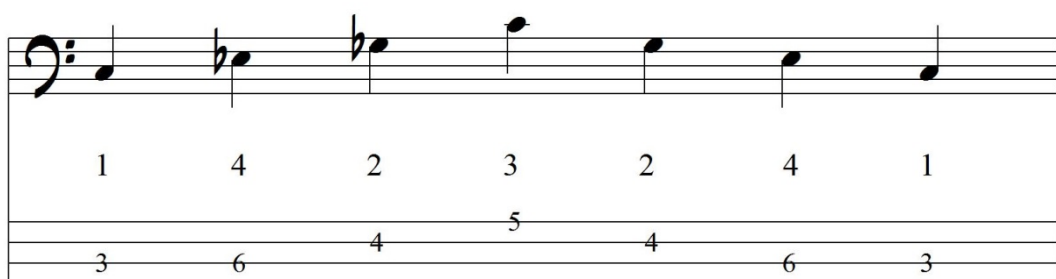
Chord Symbols (on C): C^{aug}, C⁺



Diminished Triad

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 b5

Chord Symbols (on C): C^{dim}, C^o



2 - Seventh Chords

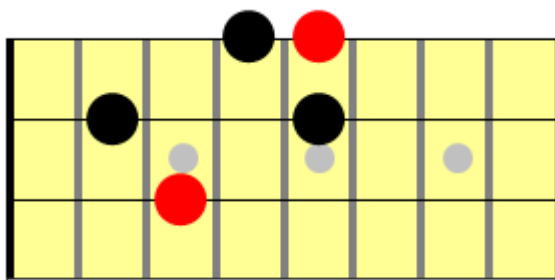
Major 7

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj7, CΔ7

2 1 4 3 4 3 4 1 2

3 2 5 4 5 4 5 2 3



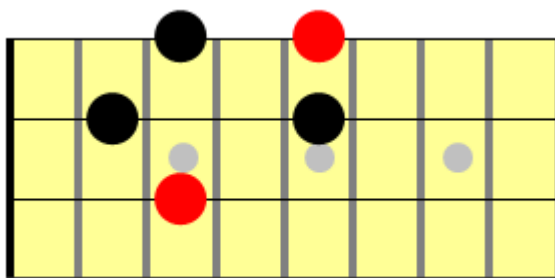
Dominant 7

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): C7

2 1 4 2 4 2 4 1 2

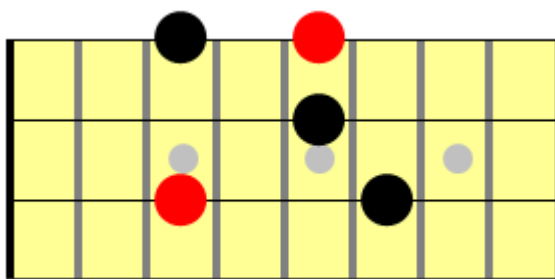
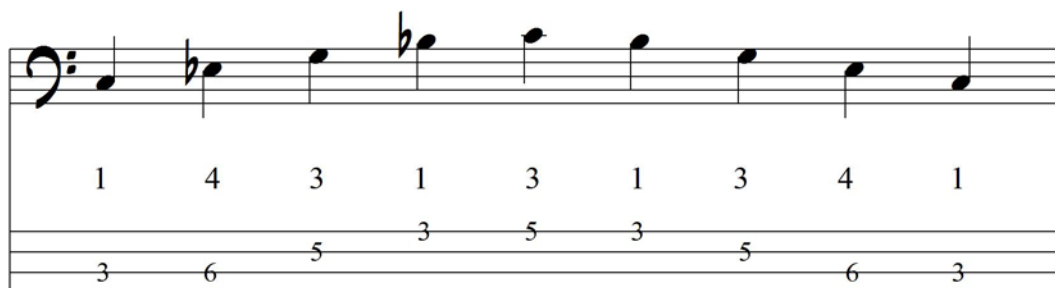
3 2 5 3 5 3 5 2 3



Minor 7

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 5 b7

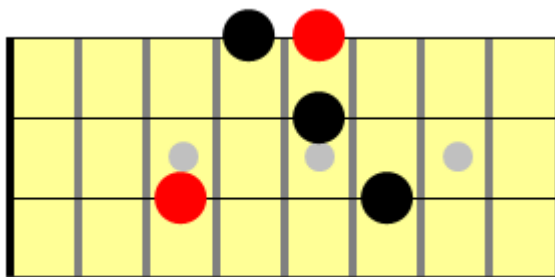
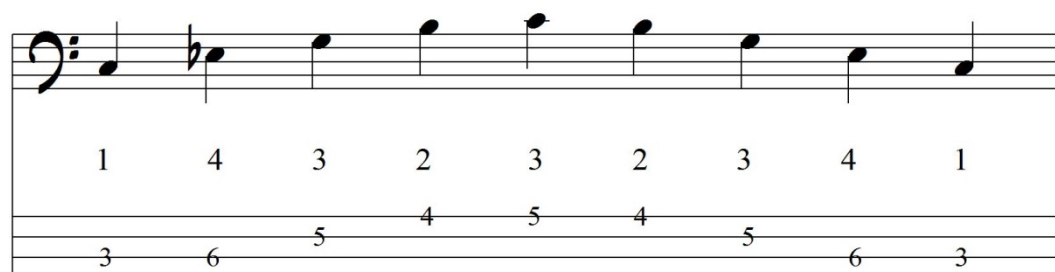
Chord Symbols (on C): Cm7, C-7



Minor(Major 7)

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 5 7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cm(maj7), Cm(Δ7)



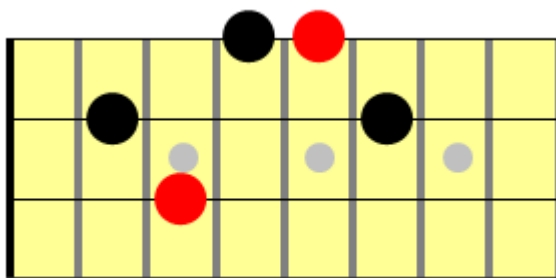
Major7#5

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 #5 7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj7#5, CΔ7+5

2 1 4 2 3 2 4 1 2

3 2 6 4 5 4 6 2 3



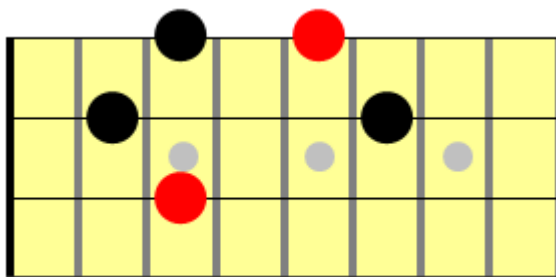
Dominant 7#5

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 #5 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): C7#5, Caug7, C+7, C7+5

2 1 4 1 3 1 4 1 2

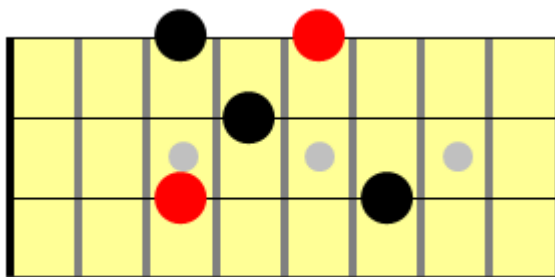
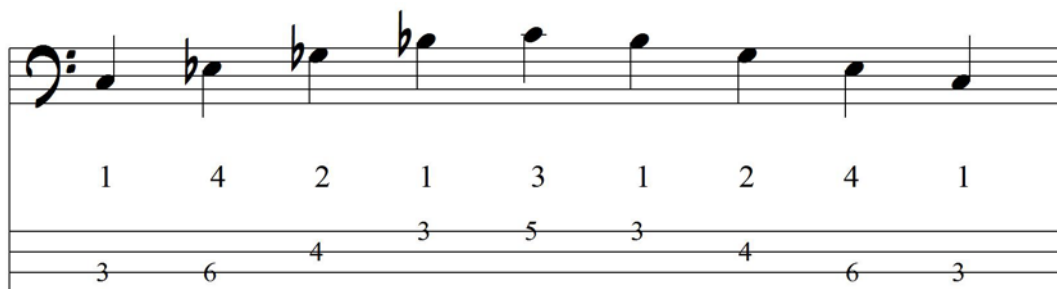
3 2 6 3 5 3 6 2 3



Minor7b5

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 b5 b7

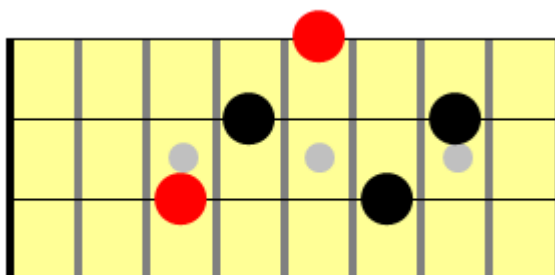
Chord Symbols (on C): Cm7b5, CØ



Diminished 7th

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 b5 bb7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cdim7, Co7



3 - Extended Chords

These arpeggios are limited to the more common Major7, Minor 7 and Dominant 7 chord qualities simply to save on space and time. Once we delve into extensions and altered extensions, we open up the number of possibilities open to us by a huge amount but the chord construction principles are the same through all the different chord qualities.

Two arpeggio fingerings are provided for each chord type. The first fingering is the fully extended pattern working through the stacked thirds beyond the octave (compound intervals). This larger shape demonstrates the way we create chords.

The second fingering drops the extensions down an octave so all notes of the chord can be viewed within a single octave. This demonstrates how the extensions can be viewed in any register. A major 9th interval is simply a major 2nd interval but an octave higher. Chords can be voiced in any number of ways and aren't limited to a strict layout.

Each arpeggio includes a complete set of extensions as we move up through the 9th, 11th and 13th. So the 11th also contains the 9th and the 13th includes the 9th and the 11th. This is the basis for the system of creating extensions by the stacking of thirds (tertian harmony).

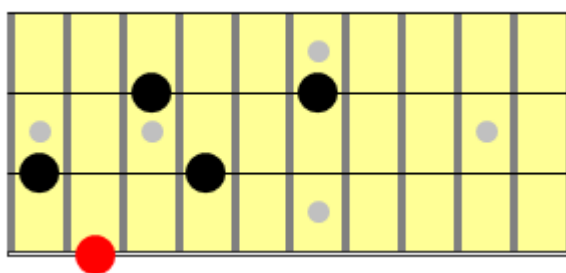
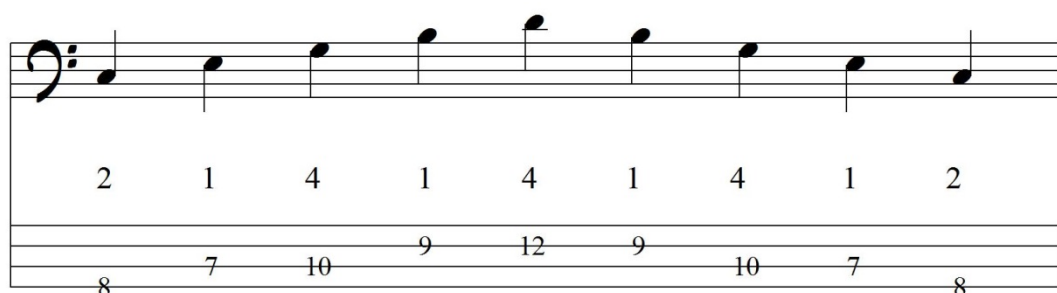
However, when we create chord voicings, the extensions below the top note are optional. For example, a C13 chord can be written with the notes: C, E, G, Bb, D, F, A as a fully extended chord. But we may also remove the 9th and the 11th to give us C, E, G, Bb, A. So we simply add the appropriate extension to the basic seventh chord.

To accommodate the larger range of the arpeggios, these patterns are shown from the root note of C at the 8th fret of the E string. This provides 4 strings to move across and allows us to move into the higher register without the need for large position shifts.

Major 9 (Fully Extended)

Intervallic Construction: 1 2 3 5 7 9

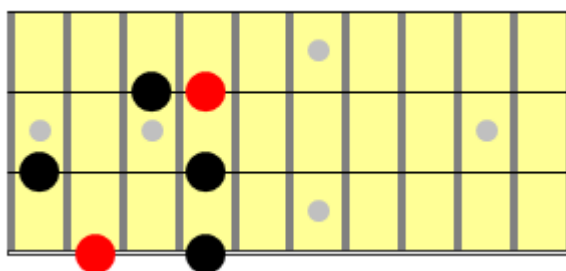
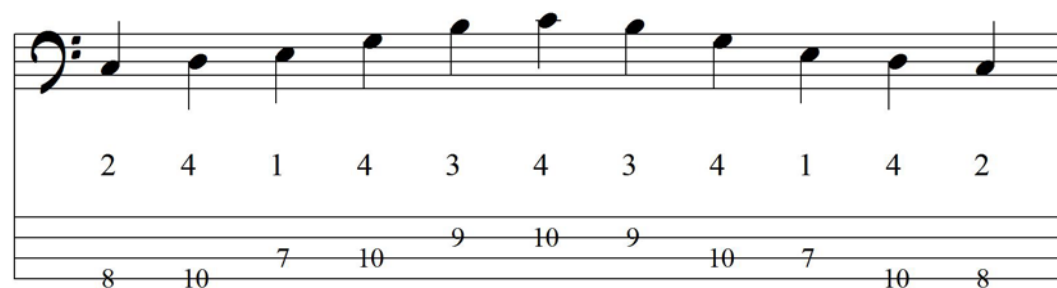
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj9, CΔ9



Major 9 (within one octave)

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 2 3 5 7

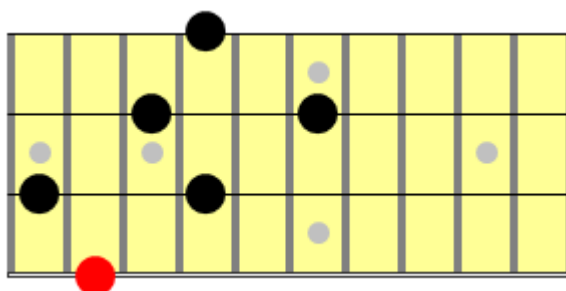
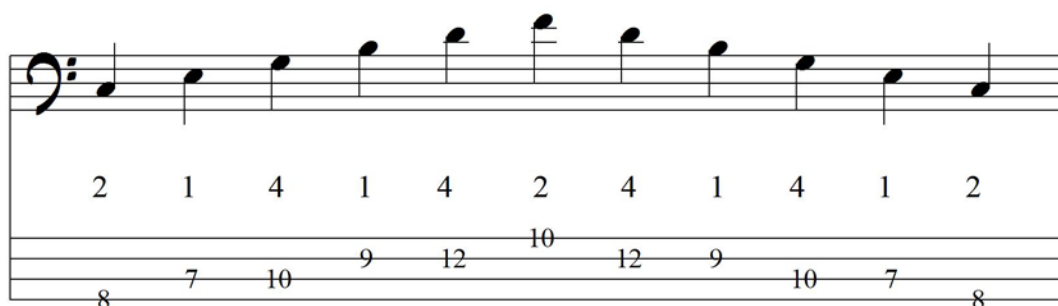
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj9, CΔ9



Major 11 (Fully extended)

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 7 9 11

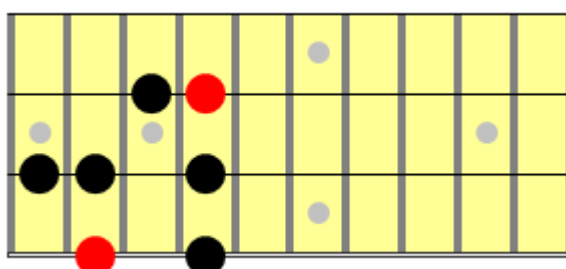
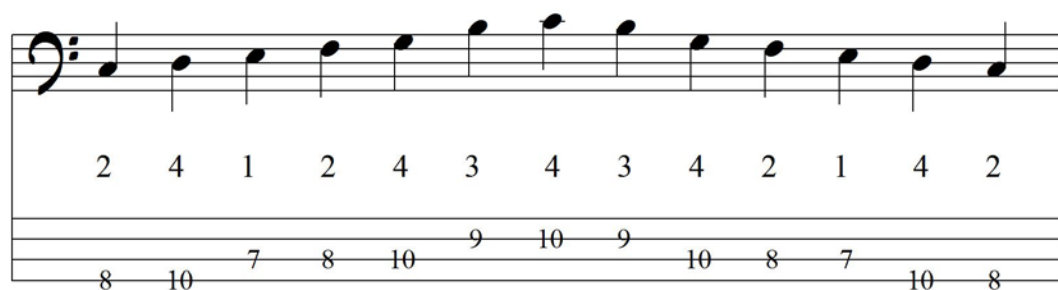
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj11, CΔ11



Major 11 (within one octave)

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 3 11 5 7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj11, CΔ11



Major 13 (Fully extended)

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 7 9 11 13

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj13, CΔ13

The diagram shows the Major 13 (Fully extended) arpeggio in bass clef. The staff contains the notes C2, D2, E2, F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, and C4. Below the staff, the fingering sequence is 2 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 2. The fret numbers are 8 7 10 9 12 10 14 10 12 9 10 7 8. The fretboard diagram shows a 12-fret grid with the following notes: C2 (red dot on the 8th fret, 1st string), D2 (black dot on the 7th fret, 2nd string), E2 (black dot on the 10th fret, 3rd string), F2 (black dot on the 9th fret, 4th string), G2 (black dot on the 12th fret, 5th string), A2 (black dot on the 10th fret, 6th string), B2 (black dot on the 14th fret, 1st string), C3 (black dot on the 10th fret, 2nd string), D3 (black dot on the 9th fret, 3rd string), E3 (black dot on the 12th fret, 4th string), F3 (black dot on the 10th fret, 5th string), G3 (black dot on the 7th fret, 6th string), A3 (black dot on the 10th fret, 1st string), B3 (black dot on the 7th fret, 2nd string), and C4 (red dot on the 8th fret, 3rd string).

Major 13 (within one octave)

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 3 11 5 13 7

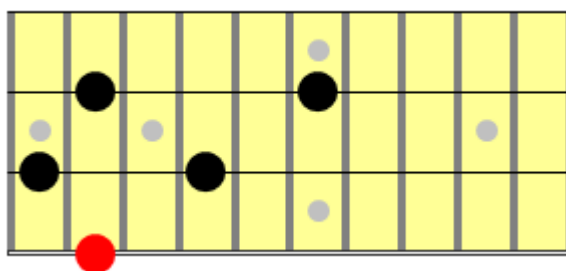
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj13, CΔ13

The diagram shows the Major 13 (within one octave) arpeggio in bass clef. The staff contains the notes C2, D2, E2, F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, and C4. Below the staff, the fingering sequence is 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2. The fret numbers are 8 10 7 8 10 7 9 10 9 7 10 8 7 10 8. The fretboard diagram shows a 12-fret grid with the following notes: C2 (red dot on the 8th fret, 1st string), D2 (black dot on the 10th fret, 2nd string), E2 (black dot on the 7th fret, 3rd string), F2 (black dot on the 8th fret, 4th string), G2 (black dot on the 10th fret, 5th string), A2 (black dot on the 7th fret, 6th string), B2 (black dot on the 9th fret, 1st string), C3 (black dot on the 7th fret, 2nd string), D3 (black dot on the 10th fret, 3rd string), E3 (black dot on the 9th fret, 4th string), F3 (black dot on the 7th fret, 5th string), G3 (black dot on the 10th fret, 6th string), A3 (black dot on the 7th fret, 1st string), B3 (black dot on the 4th fret, 2nd string), and C4 (red dot on the 8th fret, 3rd string).

Dominant 9 (Fully Extended)

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 b7 9

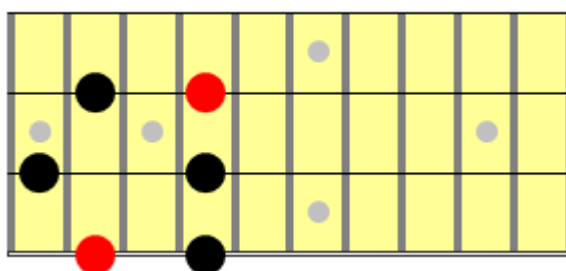
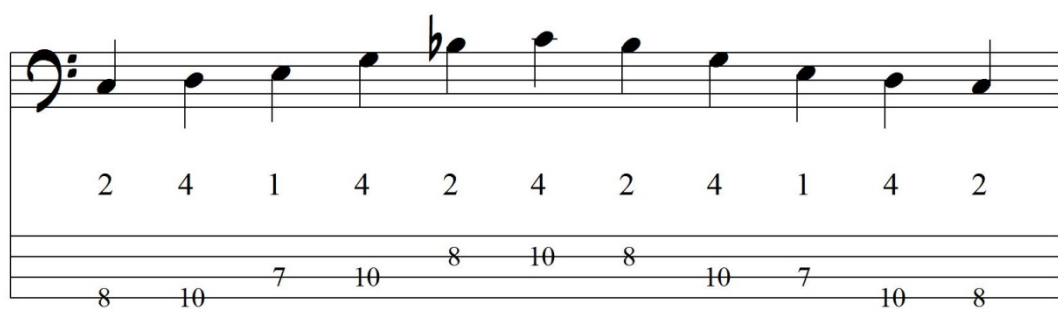
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj9, CΔ9



Dominant 9 (within one octave)

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 3 5 b7

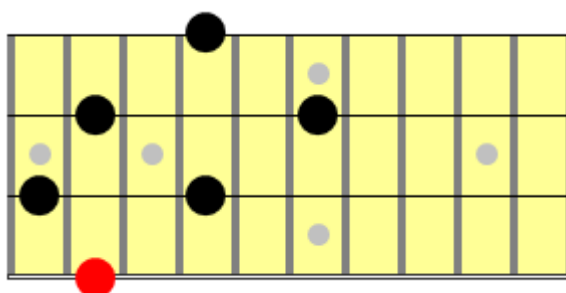
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj9, CΔ9



Dominant 11 (Fully extended)

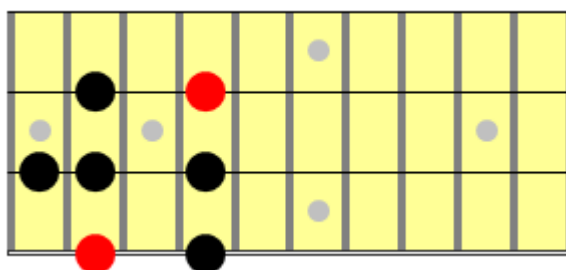
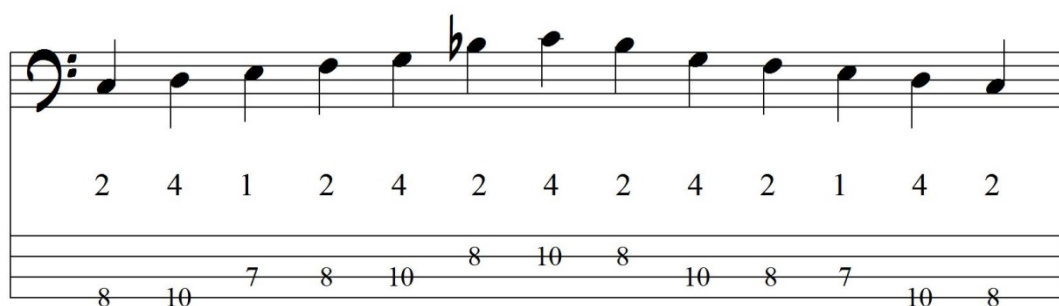
Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 b7 9 11

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj11, CΔ11

**Dominant 11 (within one octave)**

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 3 11 5 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj11, CΔ11



Dominant 13 (Fully extended)

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 b7 9 11 13

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj13, CΔ13

Musical notation for the Dominant 13 (Fully extended) arpeggio in bass clef. The notes are: C2, D2, E2, F2, G2, A2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, Bb3, C4. The fingering sequence is: 2, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 2. The fret numbers are: 8, 7, 10, 8, 12, 10, 14, 10, 12, 8, 10, 7, 8. The fretboard diagram shows the positions of the notes on a 12-fret neck, with a red dot indicating the starting position at the 8th fret on the E string.

Dominant 13 (within one octave)

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 3 11 5 13 b7

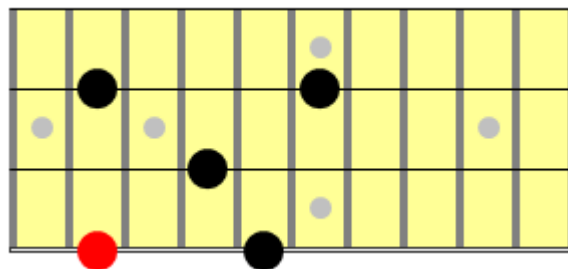
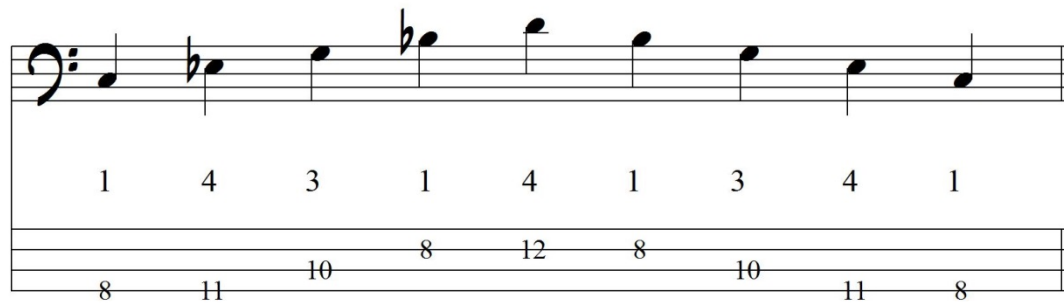
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj13, CΔ13

Musical notation for the Dominant 13 (within one octave) arpeggio in bass clef. The notes are: C2, D2, E2, F2, G2, A2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, Bb3, C4. The fingering sequence is: 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 2, 1, 4, 2, 1, 4, 2. The fret numbers are: 8, 10, 7, 8, 10, 7, 8, 10, 8, 7, 10, 8, 7, 10, 8. The fretboard diagram shows the positions of the notes on a 12-fret neck, with a red dot indicating the starting position at the 8th fret on the E string.

Minor 9 (Fully Extended)

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 5 b7 9

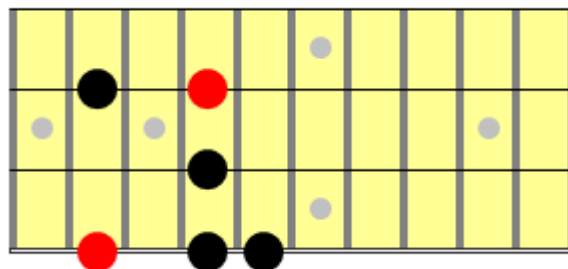
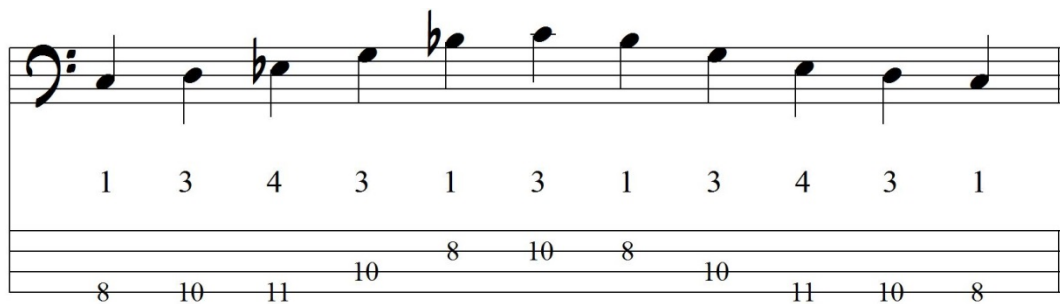
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj9, CΔ9



Minor 9 (within one octave)

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 b3 5 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj9, CΔ9



Minor 11 (Fully extended)

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 5 b7 9 11

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj11, CΔ11

The musical notation shows the arpeggio in bass clef, spanning two octaves. The notes are: C2 (open), Bb1 (11th fret), G2 (8th fret), Fb1 (12th fret), E2 (10th fret), D2 (12th fret), C3 (8th fret), Bb2 (11th fret), A2 (10th fret), G2 (8th fret), F2 (11th fret), and E2 (8th fret). The fingering sequence is: 1, 4, 3, 1, 4, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4, 1. The fretboard diagram shows the positions of these notes on a 12-fret neck, with a red dot at the open C string (2nd fret) and a black dot at the 11th fret Bb string.

Minor 11 (within one octave)

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 b3 11 5 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj11, CΔ11

The musical notation shows the arpeggio in bass clef, spanning one octave. The notes are: C2 (open), Bb1 (11th fret), G2 (8th fret), Fb1 (12th fret), E2 (10th fret), D2 (12th fret), C3 (8th fret), Bb2 (11th fret), A2 (10th fret), G2 (8th fret), F2 (11th fret), and E2 (8th fret). The fingering sequence is: 1, 3, 4, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 4, 3, 1. The fretboard diagram shows the positions of these notes on a 12-fret neck, with a red dot at the open C string (2nd fret) and a black dot at the 11th fret Bb string.

Minor 13 (Fully extended)

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 5 b7 9 11 13

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj13, CΔ13

The musical notation shows the arpeggio in bass clef, spanning two octaves. The notes are: C2 (open), Bb1, C2, Bb2, C3, Bb3, C3, Bb3, C4, Bb4, C4, Bb4, C5. The fingering sequence is: 1 4 3 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 3 4 1. The fret numbers below the staff are: 8 11 10 8 12 10 14 10 12 8 10 11 8. The fretboard diagram shows a 6-string, 12-fret grid. Black dots represent the notes: C (open), Bb (1st fret), C (open), Bb (1st fret), C (2nd fret), Bb (3rd fret), C (2nd fret), Bb (3rd fret), C (4th fret), Bb (5th fret), C (4th fret), Bb (5th fret), C (5th fret). A red dot is at the open 6th string.

Minor 13 (within one octave)

Intervallic Construction: 1 9 b3 11 5 13 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj13, CΔ13

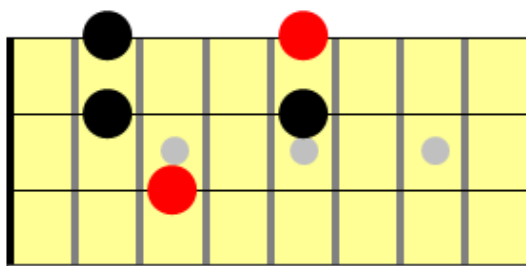
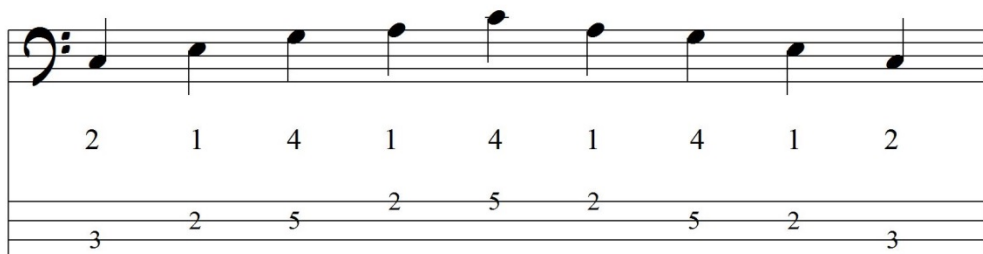
The musical notation shows the arpeggio in bass clef, spanning one octave. The notes are: C2, Bb2, C3, Bb3, C3, Bb3, C4, Bb4, C4, Bb4, C5. The fingering sequence is: 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 4 2 1 4 3 1. The fret numbers below the staff are: 8 10 11 8 10 12 8 10 8 12 10 8 11 10 8. The fretboard diagram shows a 6-string, 12-fret grid. Black dots represent the notes: C (open), Bb (1st fret), C (2nd fret), Bb (3rd fret), C (2nd fret), Bb (3rd fret), C (4th fret), Bb (5th fret), C (4th fret), Bb (5th fret), C (5th fret). A red dot is at the open 6th string.

4 - Added Note Chords

6

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 6

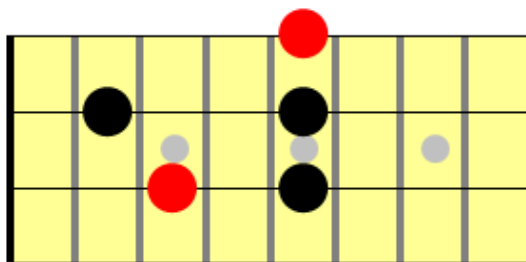
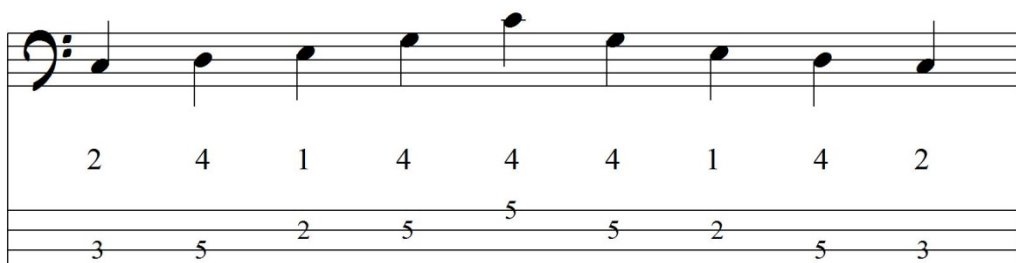
Chord Symbols (on C): C6, Cadd6



add9

Intervallic Construction: 1 2 3 5

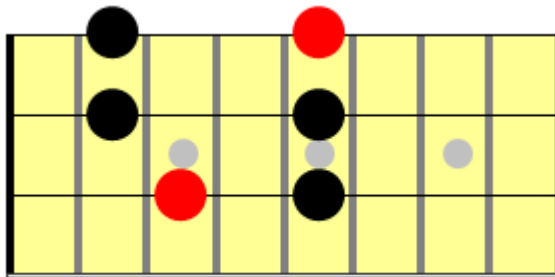
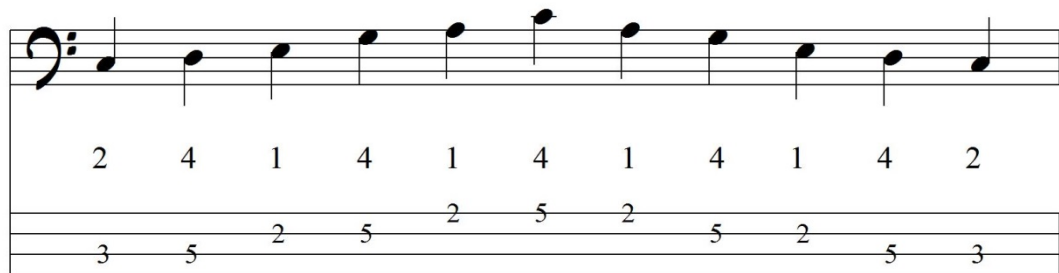
Chord Symbols (on C): Cadd9



6/9

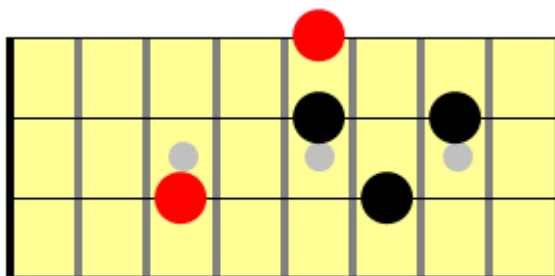
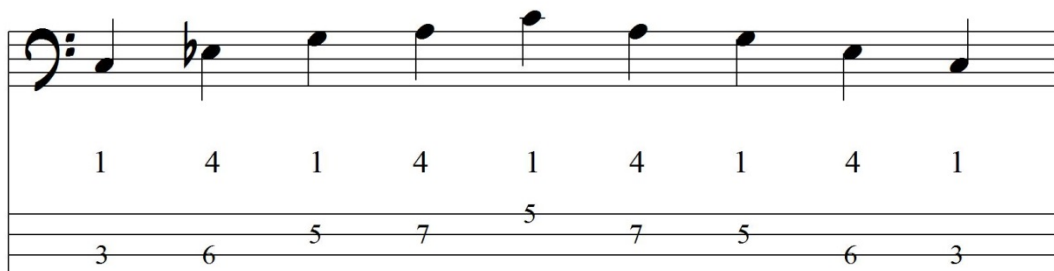
Intervallic Construction: 1 2 3 5 6

Chord Symbols (on C): C6/9

**Minor 6**

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 5 6

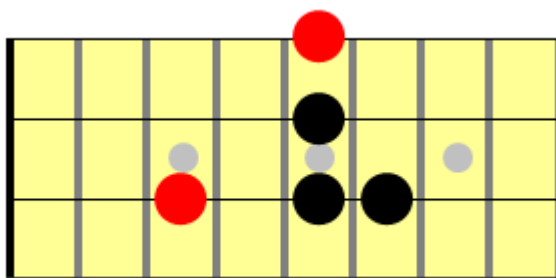
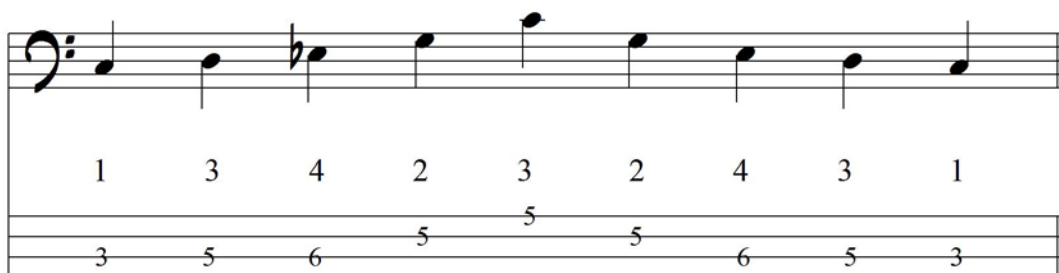
Chord Symbols (on C): Cm6, Cm(add6)



Minor add9

Intervallic Construction: 1 2 b3 5

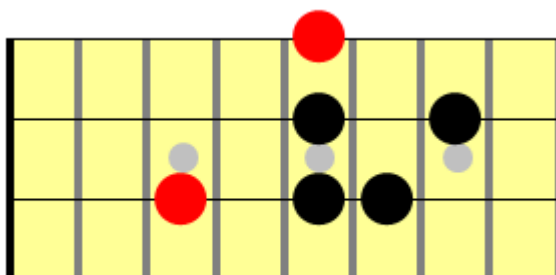
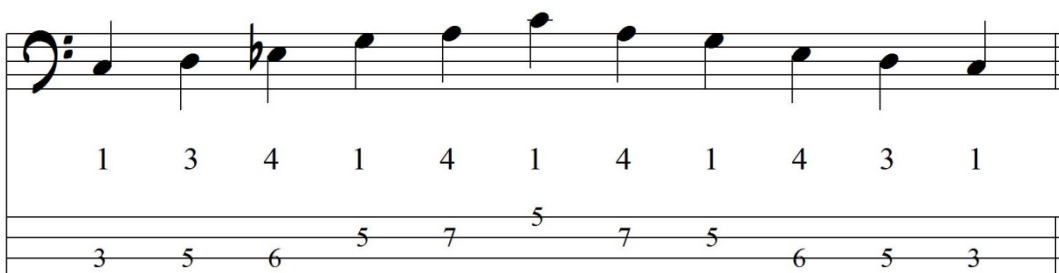
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmadd9, Cm(add9)



Minor 6/9

Intervallic Construction: 1 2 b3 5 6

Chord Symbols (on C): Cm6/9, Cm6(add9)

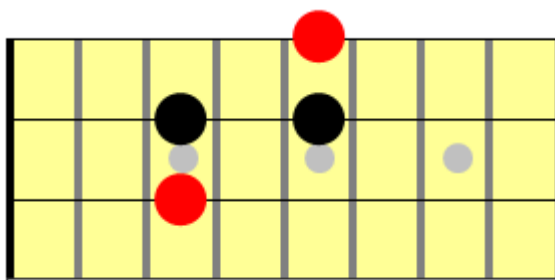
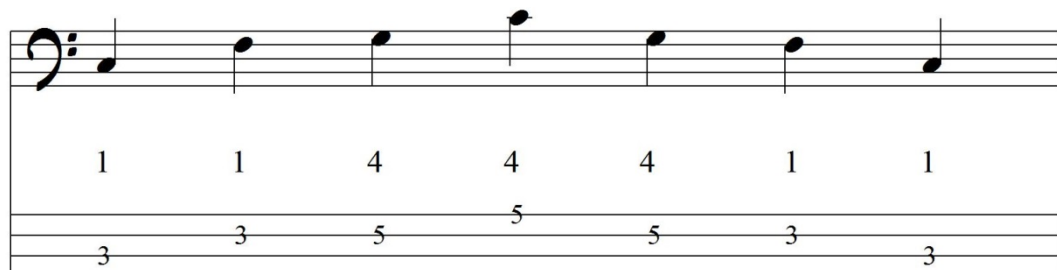


5 - Suspended Chords

Sus4

Intervallic Construction: 1 4 5

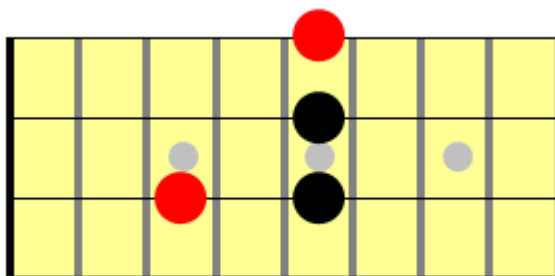
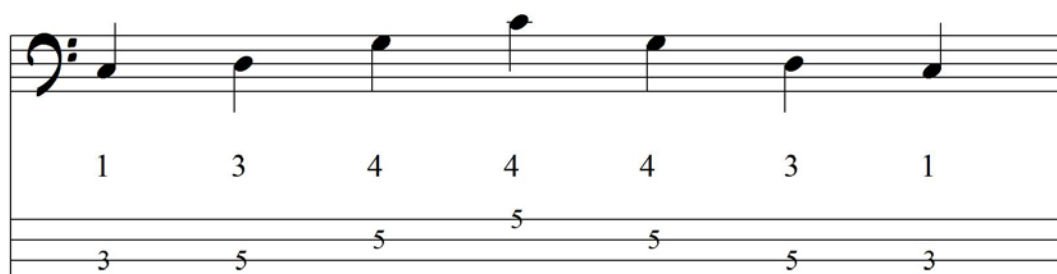
Chord Symbols (on C): Csus4, Csus



Sus2

Intervallic Construction: 1 2 5

Chord Symbols (on C): Csus2, C2



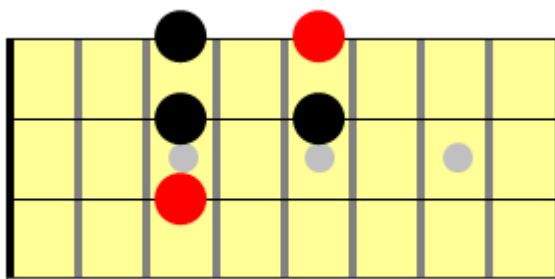
Dominant 7sus4

Intervallic Construction: 1 4 5 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): C7sus4, C7sus

1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 1

3 3 5 3 5 3 5 3 3

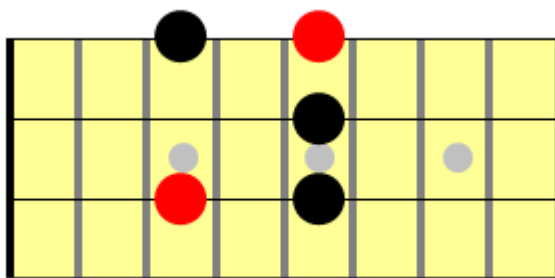
**Dominant 7sus2**

Intervallic Construction: 1 2 5 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): C7sus2

1 3 4 1 4 1 4 3 1

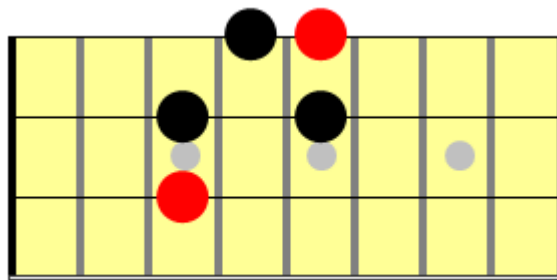
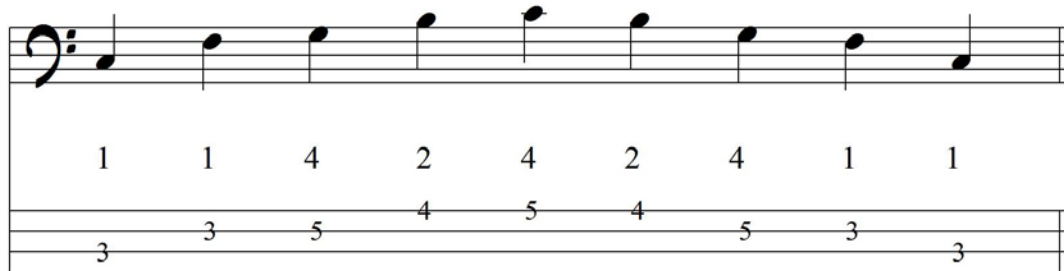
3 5 5 3 5 3 5 5 3



Major 7sus4

Intervallic Construction: 1 4 5 7

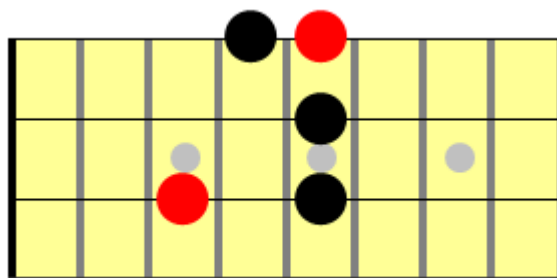
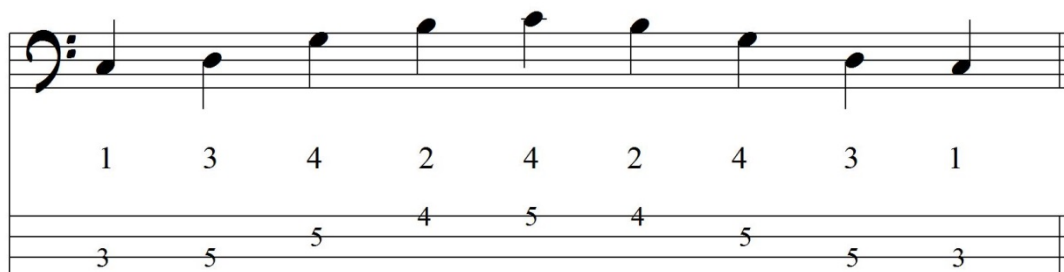
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj7sus4, Cmaj7sus



Major 7sus2

Intervallic Construction: 1 2 5 7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj7sus2



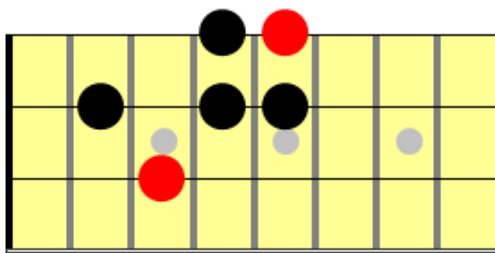
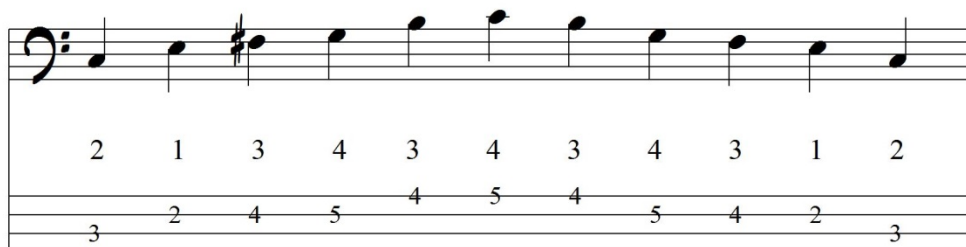
7 – Altered Extensions

The following arpeggio patterns are just a few of the many different chords that may be created by adding altered extensions to a basic seventh chord. The most common extensions are listed and all extensions are played within a single octave ($9^{\text{th}} = 2^{\text{nd}}$, $11^{\text{th}} = 4^{\text{th}}$, $13^{\text{th}} = 6^{\text{th}}$).

Major7#11

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 #11 5 7

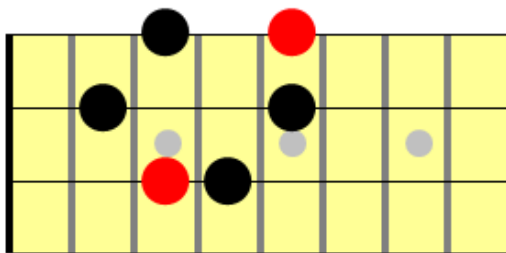
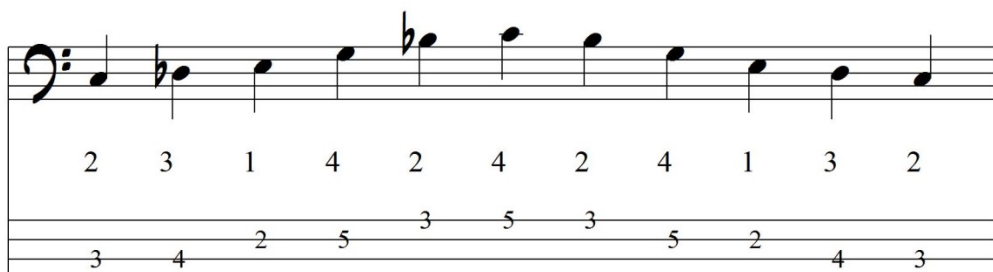
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj7#11, CΔ7#11, CΔ7+11



Dominant 7b9

Intervallic Construction: 1 b9 3 5 b7

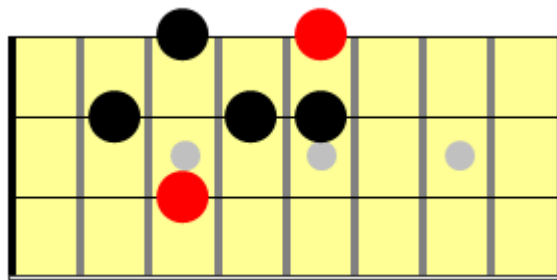
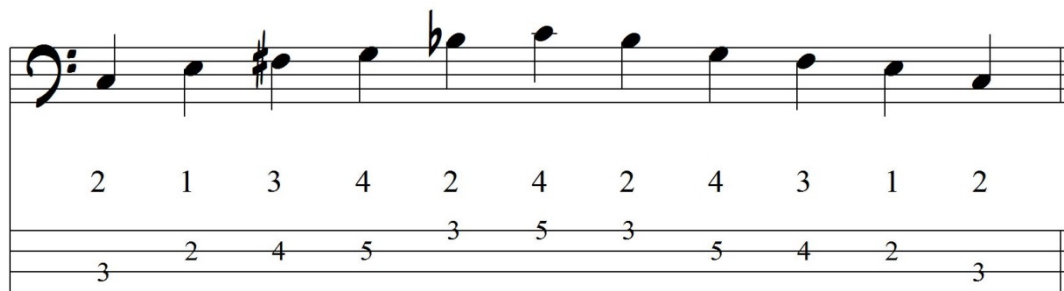
Chord Symbols (on C): C7b9, C7-9



Dominant 7#11

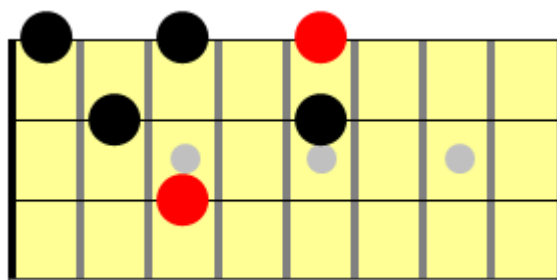
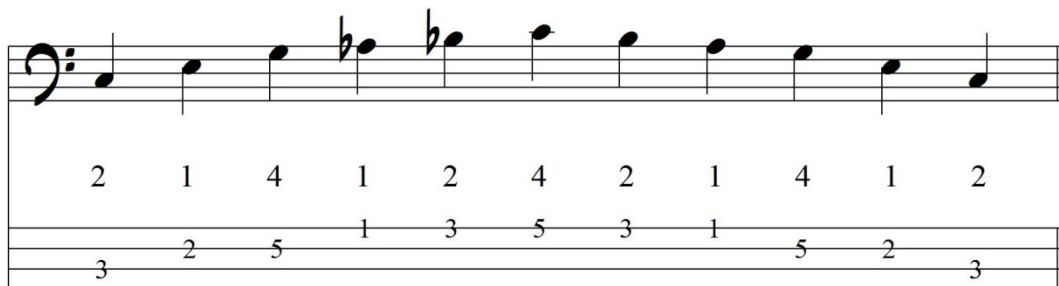
Intervallic Construction: 1 3 #11 5 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): C7#11, C7+11

**Dominant 7b13**

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 5 b13 b7

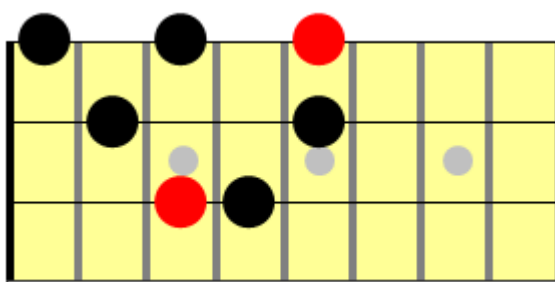
Chord Symbols (on C): C7b13, C7-13



Dominant 7b9b13

Intervallic Construction: 1 b9 3 5 b13 b7

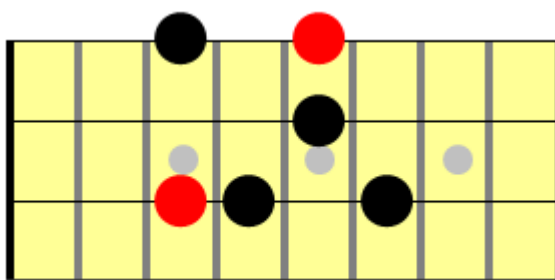
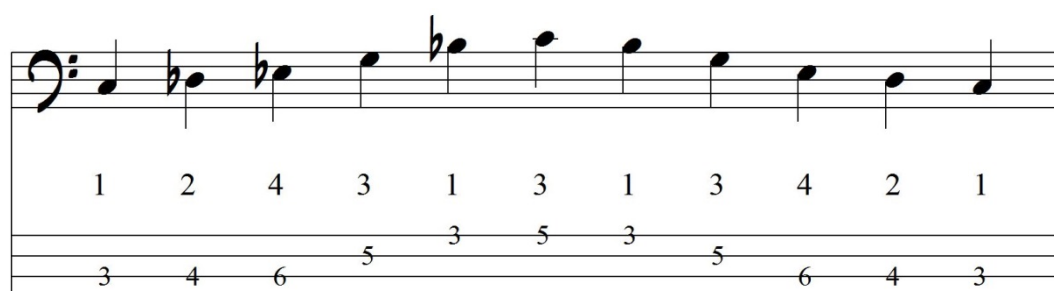
Chord Symbols (on C): C7b9b13, C7- 9 -13



Minor 7b9

Intervallic Construction: 1 b9 b3 5 b7

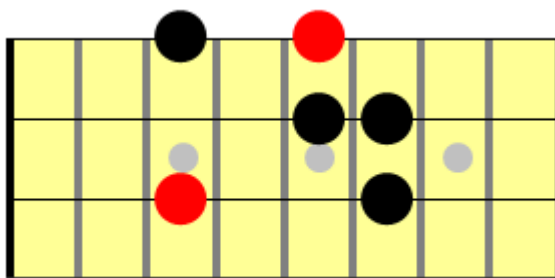
Chord Symbols (on C): Cm7b9, Cm7-9



Minor7 b13

Intervallic Construction: 1 b3 5 b13 b7

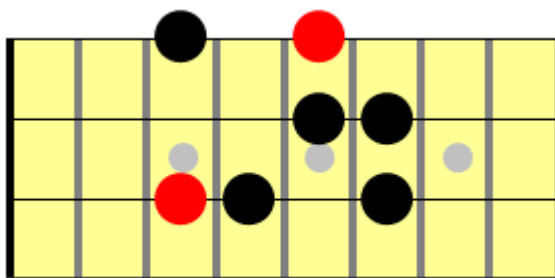
Chord Symbols (on C): Cm7b13, Cm7-13



Minor 7 b9 b13

Intervallic Construction: 1 b9 b3 5 b13 b7

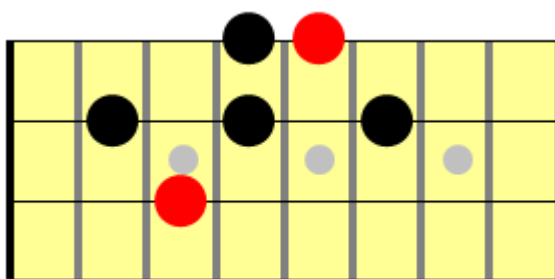
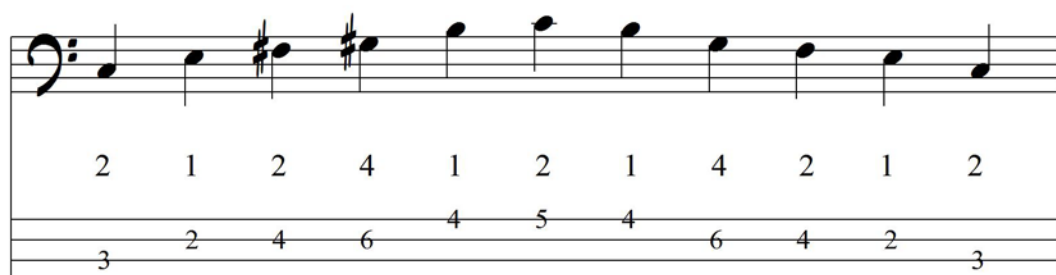
Chord Symbols (on C): Cm7b9b13, Cm7-9-13



Major 7#5#11

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 #11 #5 7

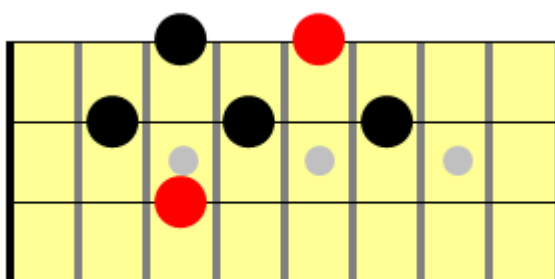
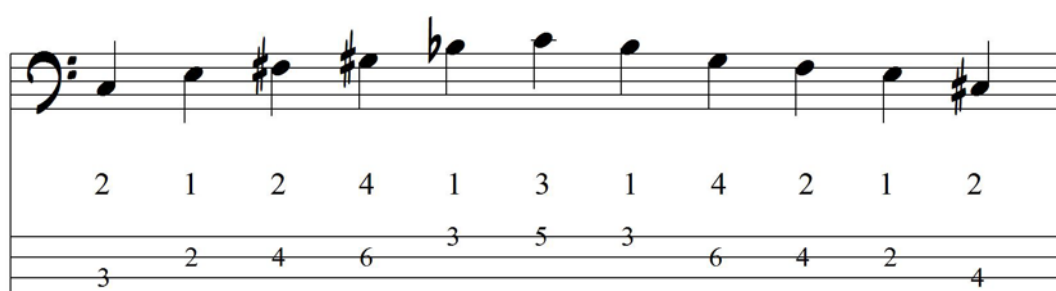
Chord Symbols (on C): Cmaj7#5#11, CΔ7#5#11, CΔ7+5+11



Dominant 7#5#11

Intervallic Construction: 1 3 #11 #5 b7

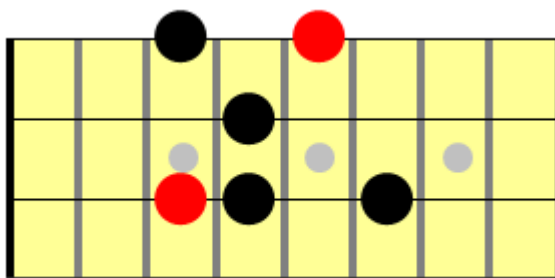
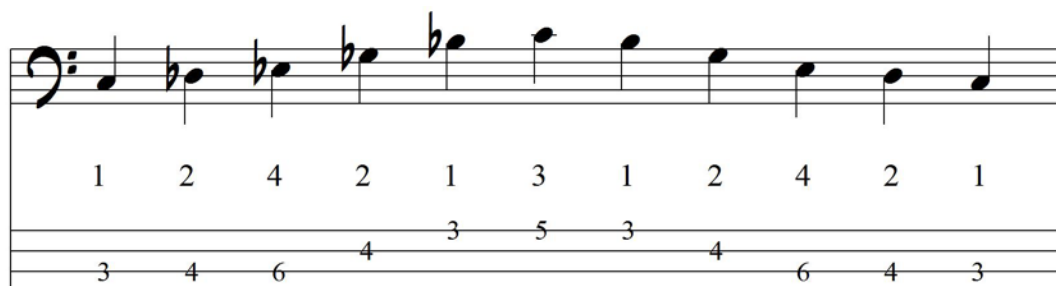
Chord Symbols (on C): C7#5#11, C7+5+11, C+7#11



Minor7b5b9

Intervallic Construction: 1 b9 b3 b5 b7

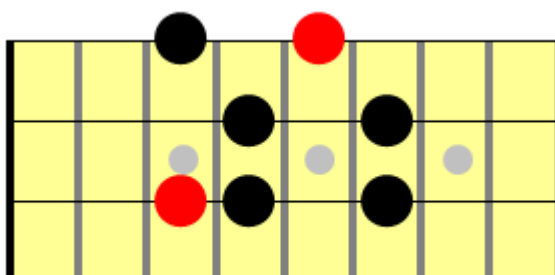
Chord Symbols (on C): Cm7b5b9, C-7b5-9, CØb9, CØ-9



Minor7b5b13

Intervallic Construction: 1 b9 b3 b5 b13 b7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cm7b5b9b13, C-7b5-9-13, CØb9b13 CØ-9-13



Diminished 7b9

Intervallic Construction: 1 b9 b3 b5 bb7

Chord Symbols (on C): Cdim7b9, Cdim7-9, Co7b9, Co7-9

1 2 4 1 4 1 4 1 4 2 1

3 4 6 4 7 5 7 4 6 4 3

