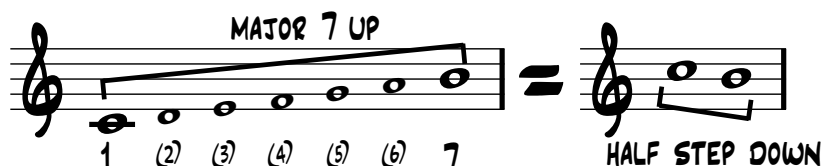


### Section 4.1.6

## SPELLING SEVENTH CHORDS

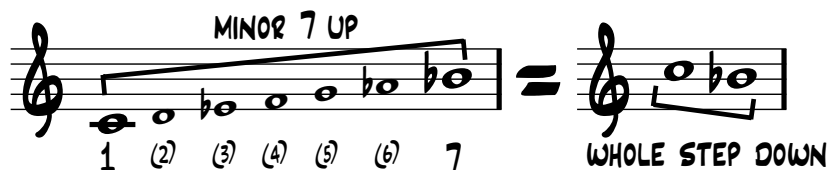
### Sevenths Major sevenths

A **seventh interval** is two notes spanning seven letter names. **Major sevenths** come from the major scale, spanning eleven half steps total. Since an octave has twelve half steps total, the best way to spell a major seventh is to think up an octave, then go down one half step.



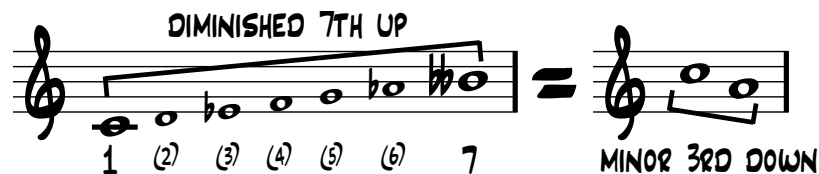
### Minor sevenths

**Minor sevenths** come from the natural minor scale, spanning ten half steps total. The best way to spell a minor seventh is to think up an octave, then go down a whole step.



### Diminished sevenths

**Diminished sevenths** are one half step smaller than minor sevenths. The best way to spell a diminished seventh is to think up an octave, then go down three half steps. Since three half steps sounds like a minor third, a shortcut when playing is to think up an octave then down a minor third.



Major seventh chords  
Minor-major seventh chords

Major seventh chords combine a major triad with a major seventh. **Minor-major seventh chords** combine a minor triad with a major seventh. To spell them, duplicate the root up an octave, then think down a half step for the major seventh. Sometimes “maj7” is used for major seventh chords instead.

The diagram illustrates the construction of major and minor-major seventh chords. It consists of two rows of musical notation in treble clef, each showing an addition (+) and an equals sign (=).

- Top row:** A major triad (C4, E4, G4) is added to a major seventh interval (B4, C5). The result is a major seventh chord (CΔ), with the root C4 and the seventh B4.
- Bottom row:** A minor triad (C4, E♭4, G4) is added to a major seventh interval (B4, C5). The result is a minor-major seventh chord (C-Δ7), with the root C4 and the seventh B4.

Labels for the top row: MAJOR TRIAD, HALF STEP DOWN FOR MAJOR SEVENTH, CΔ.

Labels for the bottom row: MINOR TRIAD, C-Δ7.

Major-minor seventh chords  
Minor seventh chords

Major-minor seventh chords combine a major triad with a minor seventh. **Minor seventh chords** combine a minor triad with a minor seventh.

The diagram illustrates the construction of major-minor and minor seventh chords. It consists of two rows of musical notation in treble clef, each showing an addition (+) and an equals sign (=).

- Top row:** A major triad (C4, E4, G4) is added to a minor seventh interval (B♭4, C5). The result is a major-minor seventh chord (C7), with the root C4 and the seventh B♭4.
- Bottom row:** A minor triad (C4, E♭4, G4) is added to a minor seventh interval (B♭4, C5). The result is a minor seventh chord (C-7), with the root C4 and the seventh B♭4.

Labels for the top row: MAJOR TRIAD, WHOLE STEP DOWN FOR MINOR SEVENTH, C7.

Labels for the bottom row: MINOR TRIAD, C-7.

Half-diminished seventh chords  
Diminished seventh chords

Half-diminished seventh chords combine a diminished triad and a minor seventh. **Diminished seventh chords** combine a diminished triad with a diminished seventh (which sounds like a major sixth, C-A in the example).

The diagram illustrates the construction of half-diminished and diminished seventh chords. It consists of two rows of musical notation in treble clef, each showing an addition (+) and an equals sign (=).

- Top row:** A diminished triad (C4, E♭4, G♭4) is added to a minor seventh interval (B♭4, C5). The result is a half-diminished seventh chord (C-7♭5), with the root C4 and the seventh B♭4.
- Bottom row:** A diminished triad (C4, E♭4, G♭4) is added to a diminished seventh interval (B♭4, C♭5). The result is a diminished seventh chord (C°), with the root C4 and the seventh B♭4.

Labels for the top row: DIMINISHED TRIAD, WHOLE STEP DOWN FOR MINOR SEVENTH, C-7♭5.

Labels for the bottom row: DIMINISHED TRIAD, THREE HALF STEPS DOWN FOR DIMINISHED SEVENTH, C°.