Tissimo

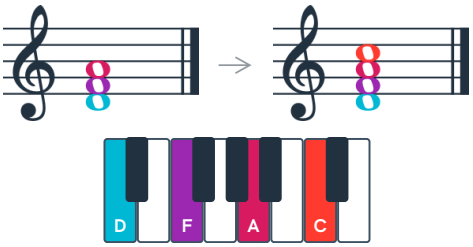
LISTEN
Scan to hear every example
tissimo.co/worksheets/minor-seventh

The minor 7th

Take a **minor triad** and stack one more **minor** third on top. On D the chord is **D–F–A–C**, written **Dm7**. It is the mellow, easygoing member of the 7th-chord family — and in any major key there are three of them.

A MINOR TRIAD, PLUS A MINOR 7TH

Start with the **D minor triad**, D–F–A. Add a third above the A and you land on **C**: the seventh letter up from D, and a **minor** 7th above the root — 10 half steps, a whole step below the octave.

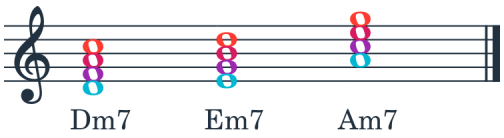


Minor triad, minor 7th: the name tells you both halves. Dm7 is soft and a little wistful, but it does not pull hard anywhere. It is happy to keep moving.

D → F minor 3rd | F → A major 3rd | A → C minor 3rd
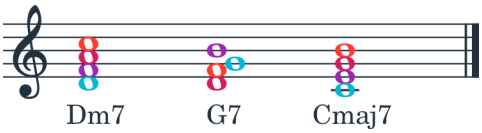
THREE PER KEY — AND THE ii7–V7–I

Stack a 7th chord on every note of C major, white keys only, and **three** come out minor: on the 2nd, 3rd and 6th degrees. Their names are **ii7** (Dm7), **iii7** (Em7) and **vi7** (Am7) — lowercase numerals, because the triad is minor (the triads underneath: Handout 357).



ii7 · iii7 · vi7 in C major
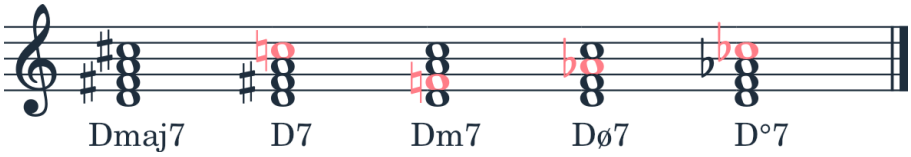
The busiest of the three is **ii7**. It walks to **V7** and then home to **I**: **Dm7–G7–Cmaj7**, the **ii–V–I**, the progression jazz is built on.



ii7 → V7 → Imaj7. Each red 7th steps down to become the next purple 3rd.

ONE ROOT, FIVE 7TH CHORDS

Start from Dmaj7 and lower **one note a half step** at a time (coral). Four moves walk you through the whole family. Notice the step from **Dm7** to **Dø7**: the same chord with a lowered 5th. That is why the half-diminished 7th is also written **m7♭5** (Handout 211).



CHORD	NOTES	TRIAD	7TH ON TOP	HANDOUT
Dmaj7	D–F♯–A–C♯	major	major 7th	223
D7	D–F♯–A–C	major	minor 7th	212
Dm7	D–F–A–C	minor	minor 7th	this one
Dø7 = Dm7♭5	D–F–A♭–C	diminished	minor 7th	211
D°7	D–F–A♭–C♭	diminished	diminished 7th	210

Try it Play **Dm7–G7–Cmaj7** with the voicing above and keep your hand still: only two fingers move each time. Then climb down the ladder on D, one coral note at a time, and name each chord as you land on it. Last, build ii7, iii7 and vi7 in G major (Am7, Bm7, Em7).

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