

Playing 7th Chords (on the guitar)

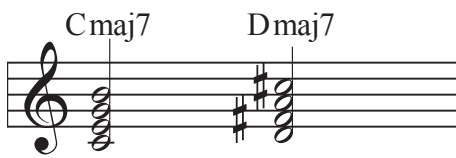
There are rare situations where some form of 7th chord can be played in "closed voicing" on the guitar but generally, the voicing will have to be opened in some manner to accommodate the standard tuning of the instrument.



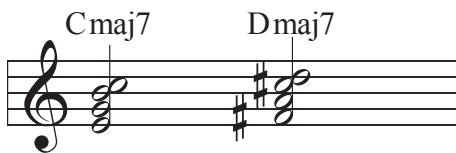
The lower octave of this G7 chord is impossible but the higher octave can be done with an extended fingering.



The solution often is to simply omit one of the notes. In this case the 5th is omitted because it is one of the inside voices and the inversion is still relatively intact.



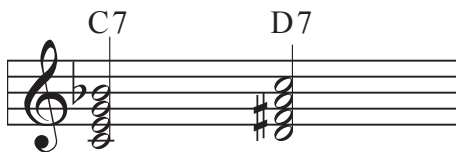
Here, the Major 7th chords are totally possible in closed voicing....



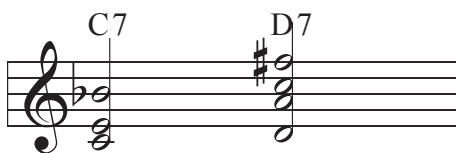
...but an inversion of the same chords produces an impossible situation.



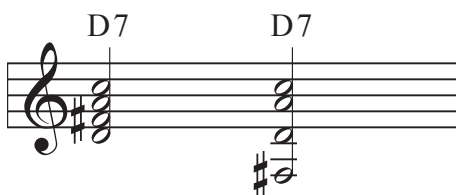
Again, one solution is to eliminate one of the inside voices or the other possibility is to rearrange the notes. Rearranging the notes places a different note at the top of the chord so some of the "feeling" of the original inversion is sacrificed. (These four note chords are often difficult but not impossible to finger on the guitar.)



Neither of these two chords would be playable in four note closed fingering on the guitar.



Again the solution is to either reduce the chord to three voices or rearrange the notes in an open voicing. The most common open voicing is produced by simply moving the second lowest note of the closed voicing up one octave.



The other common solution is to lower the second lowest note of the closed voicing by an octave. This however changes the feeling of the inversion because, as in this example, the chord is no longer in Root position.

All of this information will be systematically developed through the following four volumes of Guitar Fundamentals. There is a reasonably exact science to music and usually a relatively simple arithmetical solution to most chordal circumstances. Avid students will benefit from patience. Impatient students will often fail in their quest for knowledge.