

(more Advanced Chord Forms)

Mute the fourth string by allowing the 3rd finger to touch it.

With all six strings being used, this chord will be muddy.

F maj7

F m(maj7)

F 6

Some Additional Tips:

If the music calls for a G9, G13, or G7b9 chord, you can usually simplify the project by playing a G7 chord. Most likely, the melody note is the 9th, b9th or 13th degree of the suggested chord and there may not be a great need to play one of your hundred dollar chords. Similarly, if the music calls for a Gmaj7 or G6, a plain old G chord may be just as good.

On the other hand, if the music calls for a chord with the suffix "b5", it is crucial that you play the suggested chord. A "G7" chord would disagree strongly with a "G7b5" chord. Similarly, a Gm7 is not compatible with a Gm7b5.

Jazz players commonly use "substitute chords". This topic will be studied throughout Books 2 to 5, usually under the heading of "interchangeable chords." Nevertheless, here is a trick that is very commonly used by the jazz snobs. If a "G7b5" chord is called for, use a "Db7" chord. The theory is not so important at this moment in time but you should know how to do this conversion. G7=G-B-D-F. (Root-third-fifth-flat seventh.) Substitute a 7th chord named after the "flat fifth" of the suggested chord. G7b5----Db7 C7b5-----Gb7 D7b5----Ab7 Eb7-----A7?

The 5th of Eb is Bb. Therefore, the flatted fifth is B double flat which is enharmonically the note A.

Published music does not necessarily always have the correct chord symbols. In many cases, the chord is simplified for the less educated guitar player. A most common simplification is to use a "dim7th" chord symbol while the actual chord is a "7th flat 9" chord. Learn to read "bass clef" and you may solve many of these mysteries. example: G#dim7 with a bass note "E" is actually an "E7b9" chord. A dim7th chord built on the 3rd of the actual "7(b9)" chord.

Minor 6th chords are very rare in music. Minor 7th flat 5 chords are relatively common. example: Dm6=Bm7b5. The next time that you see a "minor 6" chord in a "piano-vocal" book, take a look at the bass note. (The conversion is easy: Dm6=m7b5 built on the 6th of D which in this case is the note B.)

If you are encountering a lot of these "advanced" chord forms, you must be playing some pretty jazzy stuff. Common popular music does not often make use of these more sophisticated harmonies.

Good luck with your future guitar studies. (G.A.)