

# The Ultimate Jazz Chord

This lesson covers one of the most helpful chords you'll ever know—some might even say it's the ultimate jazz chord, the tritone augmented chord. Don't let the complex name fool you. This chord is relatively easy to form and gives an immediate "jazz" sound to almost any chord progression.

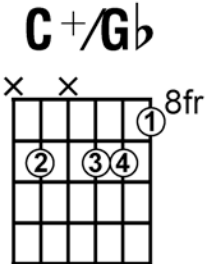
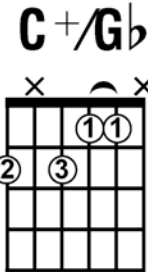
The tritone augmented chord functions as a V chord (or dominant). So, you can substitute it for a V chord. It's an augmented chord built on the V but with a bass note that is a tritone, or three whole steps away from the root. The combination of the augmented dominant chord and the tritone in the bass creates a very unstable chord that needs to be resolved. It is so unstable that it can resolve to anything major or minor, which makes it an incredibly helpful chord to know in order to create harmonically rich jazz chord progressions.

## Chord Forms

There are two main forms for this chord—one with a bass note on the sixth string and one with a bass note on the fifth string.

**6th String Bass Note**

**5th String Bass Note**



### Playing Tip

Use the tritone augmented chord one half step above the target chord to resolve to it from above.

## Putting the Chord to Work in Progressions

Here are several examples of progressions that use this chord. Notice how the tritone augmented is resolving to the target chord from one half step above. The first progression is a ii-V-I in the key of F.

**Gm7** **C7** **Fmaj7**

**Original Progression**

**Gm7** **C + /G<sup>b</sup>** **Fmaj7**

**Embellished Progression**

### Playing Tip

The tritone augmented chord can be used to resolve to major chords and minor chords.

The second progression uses the tritone augmented chord to resolve to a minor chord.

**Original Progression**

**Embellished Progression**

The last progression uses several tritone augmented chords to resolve to major and minor chords to create a great sounding jazz progression.

For step-by-step quality guitar instruction check out the award winning Gibson's Learn & Master Guitar course at [www.LearnAndMaster.com](http://www.LearnAndMaster.com) and the lessons section at [www.gibson.com](http://www.gibson.com) for all the help you need to become the player you want to be!



## Steve Krenz

As an educator, Steve is best known for the top-selling guitar instruction course, **Gibson's Learn & Master Guitar** that received the 2011 Acoustic Guitar Magazine Player's Choice Award for Best Instructional Material. As a professional guitarist in Nashville, Steve's broad playing experience includes playing guitar with a symphony orchestra, to jazz big bands, to performing with numerous Grammy-winning artists like Donna Summer, Michael W. Smith, Bryan White, The Fifth Dimension, Israel Houghton, and Tommy Sims.

# Gibson's Learn & Master® GUITAR

with Steve Krenz

Comprehensive learning in the  
comfort of your home.

## What's in the box?

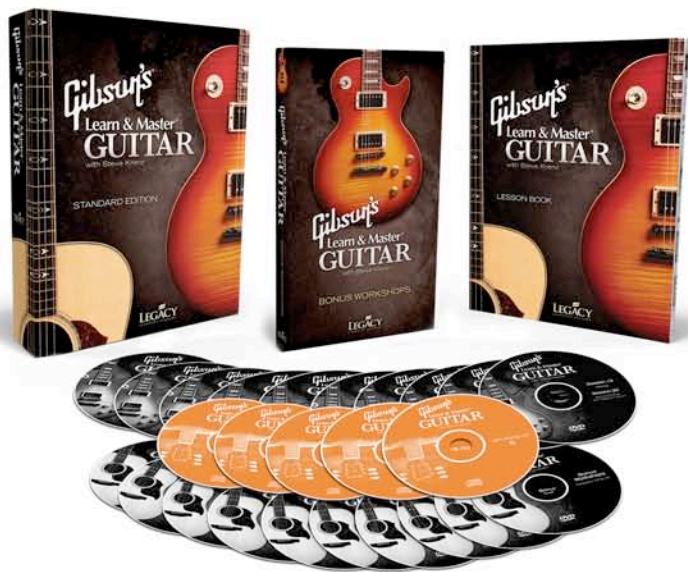
20 DVDs in HD with over 40 hours  
of instruction.

5 Jam-Along CDs.

100+ page lesson book.

Bonus Content: The Life of Les Paul,  
Gibson USA, and more.

Unlimited access to our online  
student support site.



Learn at home or on the go with the  
Learn & Master Guitar App



[www.Gibson.com](http://www.Gibson.com)