

Major 7th Chords

Major 7th chords are used in many styles of music. This lesson covers creative musical ideas to play over major 7th chords in an R&B setting.

STYLE LESSONS

advanced

The musical examples in this lesson are played over the following 4-bar major 7th based chord progression.

Single Note Ideas in a Paul Jackson Jr. Style

Los Angeles studio guitarist Paul Jackson Jr. has played on countless hit recordings including Michael Jackson's "Bad" and projects by Whitney Houston, Elton John, Chicago, and most recently, he plays guitar in the Tonight Show Band. He is probably the most prolific R&B guitarist in history.

Paul developed an approach to playing rhythm guitar using single notes and occasional two-note diads played over a chord progression to create memorable R&B grooves.

Here is a single note approach to playing a groove over a major 7th chord progression in a Paul Jackson Jr. style as shown in the video. All notes are to be played using palm muting in the picking hand, and they are based from the key of C and the C major scale. The "x" notes are muted notes with the fingers not making full contact with the fret.

Two Note Diad Ideas

Just as single note ideas can be played over chord progressions, ideas can be created using two notes played together, also called diads. These two-note ideas often incorporate intervals of thirds or fourths. Here is the example played in the video with the looper track. Notice the use of 3rds, 4ths, and hammer-ons.

Cmaj7 **Fmaj7** **F/G**

T
A
B

Cmaj7 **Fmaj7** **F/G**

T
A
B

Cmaj7 **Fmaj7** **F/G** **Cmaj7**

T
A
B

Sliding Arpeggio Diads

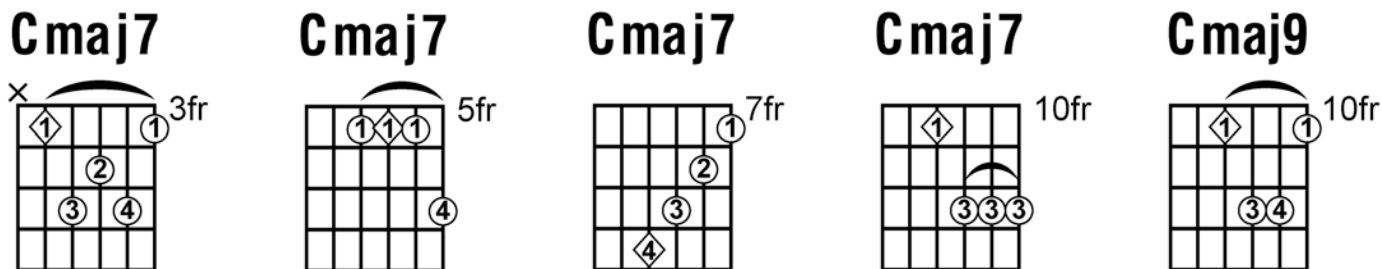
Another common musical idea heard in this style incorporates two note diads while sliding down a major 9th arpeggio. Here's the musical example played in the video using sliding arpeggio diads over a Cmaj7 chord.

Cmaj7

T
A
B

Using a Variety of Chord Forms

Major 7th chords can be played a variety of ways on guitar. Here are a few common chord forms and variations that work for a Cmaj7 chord. The diamond indicates the root of a moveable chord.



Here is the chord musical example shown in the video using hammer-ons and pull-offs.

For more ideas and instruction check out the award-winning Gibson's Learn & Master Guitar course at www.LearnAndMaster.com and the lessons section at www.gibson.com for all the help you need to become the player you want to be!

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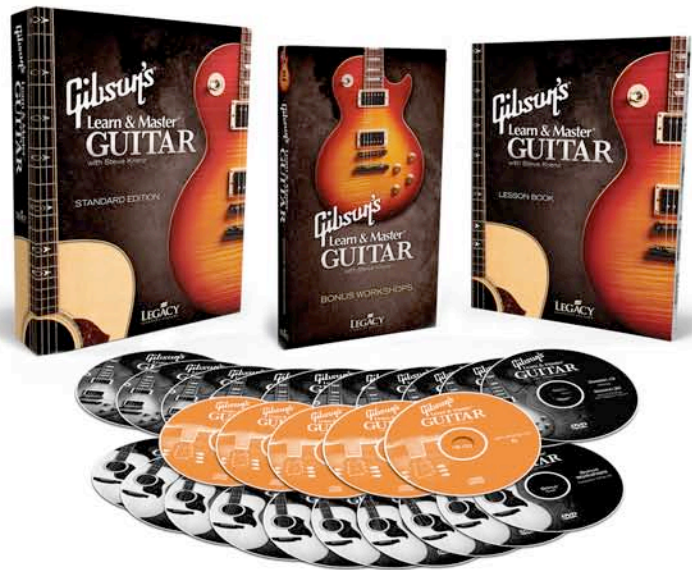
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