

Jazz Chords: Ninths

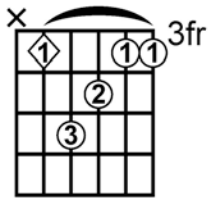
One of the many chords to define Jazz guitar playing is the ninth chord. Ninth chords add incredible color and richness to create a distinctive jazz sound to any progression.

This lesson covers major 9th, minor 9th, dominant 9th chords and altered ninth chords like the sharp 9 and flat 9 chords. These few chord forms can transform a bland sounding chord progression into a colorful sounding jazz chord progression. Grab your guitar and let's start!

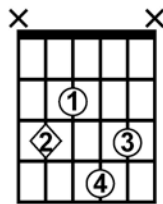
Major Ninth Chords

Major ninth chords are major seventh chords with an added tone of a ninth. Major ninth chords include the tones 1-3-5-7-9 of the major scale. Here are several major ninth chord forms with roots on the 5th and the 4th strings. The diamond in the chord block indicates the root of the chord. In the last chord, the E under the slash indicates the bass note.

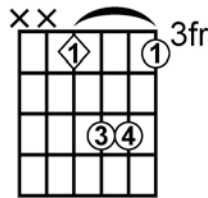
Cmaj9



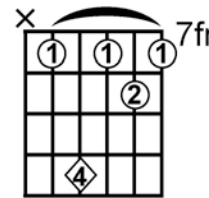
Cmaj9



Fmaj9



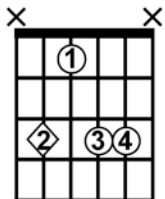
Cmaj9/E



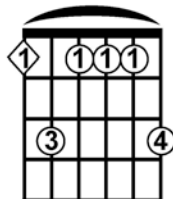
Minor Ninth Chords

Minor ninth chords are minor seventh chords with an added tone of a ninth. Minor ninth chords include the tones 1-b3-5-b7-9 of the major scale. Here are a couple of minor ninth chord forms with roots on the 5th and 6th strings.

Cm9



Fm9



Dominant Ninth, #9, and b9 Chords

Dominant ninth chords are dominant seventh chords with the added tone of a ninth. Dominant ninth chords include the tones 1-3-5-b7-9 of the major scale. The word "dominant" in the chord title is dropped for the normal chord name. So, a dominant seventh chord is called simply a "seventh" chord and a dominant ninth chord is called a "ninth" chord as in C9 or F9.

Ninth chords usually function as the V (five) chord in a key and are commonly altered either raising or lowering the ninth step to make a "sharp 9" or "flat 9" chord.

Here is a ninth chord with a root on the 5th string and its altered ninth variations.

C9

C7 (#9)

C7 (b9)

Ninth Chord Progressions

Now, let's put these new ninth chords to work in some typical jazz chord progressions. This first progression is in the key of C and adds ninths to a standard I – vim – IV – iim progression.

Cmaj9

Am9

5fr.

Fmaj9

3fr.

Dm9

3fr.

Cmaj9

The second progression uses a combination of ii-V progressions and altered ninth chords to resolve in the key of F.

Gm7

3fr.

C9

Am7

5fr.

D9

4fr.

C7(#9)

C7(b9)

Fmaj7

The third and last progression moves up the neck and again uses the altered ninth chords to resolve to the major 7th root.

Cmaj9/E

7fr.

Am9

10fr.

Dm9

10fr.

G7(b9)

9fr.

G7(#9)

9fr.

Cmaj7

8fr.

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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.

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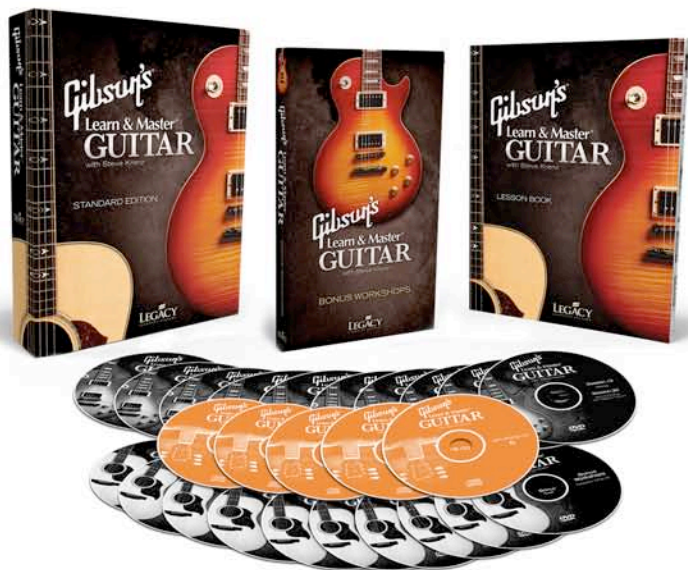
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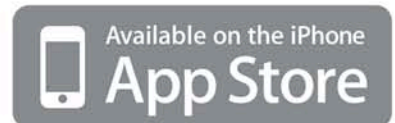
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