

CREATE MAJOR SOUNDS

C MAJOR SCALE

(Ionian)

MAJOR 7 CONSTRUCTION

C	D	E	F	G	A	B
1	2/9	3	4/11	5	6/13	7

1,	3,	5,	7
C,	E,	G,	B

Here's where we start. Using the major chord family, (Key of C in order to make all examples as explicit as possible) we are going to apply different arpeggios against the Major 7 chord and see what other Major chord sounds we can create. We will use the I, III, and VI arpeggios in the Key of C.

Created
Chordal Sound

Cmaj7 (I) arpeggio played against a Cmaj7 chord = Cmaj7

(C, E, G, B) = Notes of the Cmaj7 arpeggio
(1, 3, 5, 7) = Notes compared to a C chord

MAJOR 9 SUBSTITUTION RULE

Playing a Minor 7 arpeggio up a Major 3rd from the root of the major chord will create a Major 9 sound. Why? The addition of the D note, which is the 9th of C.

Em7 (III) arpeggio played against a Cmaj7 chord = Cmaj9

(E, G, B, D) = Notes of the Em7 arpeggio
(3, 5, 7, 9) = Notes compared to a C chord

MAJOR 6 SUBSTITUTION RULE

Playing a Minor 7 arpeggio down a Minor 3rd from the root of the major chord will create a Major 6 sound. Why? The addition of the A note, which is the 6th of C.

Am7 (VI) arpeggio played against Cmaj7 chord = C6

(A, C, E, G) = Notes of the Am7 arpeggio
(6, 1, 3, 5) = Notes compared to a C chord