7th Chords

7th chords are made by adding a 7 or b7 interval to any of the triads. The quickest way to find the 7 is to go back a half step (1 fret) from the root note of the chord. If you need a b7 then go back a whole step (2 frets). Typically, you will look for an octave of the root note of the chord and lower that.

The following chord formulas that have a roman numeral underneath are the 7th chords that occur in the Major Scale. Just because a chord formula doesn't occur in the Major Scale does not mean it doesn't exist.

Starting with the Major Triad of 1, 3, 5

1, 3, 5 + 7 = Major 7 (example Cmaj7)
I – IV

1, 3, 5 + b7 = Dominant 7 – usually just written as 7 (example G7)
V

Starting with the Minor Triad of 1, b3, 5

1, b3, 5 + 7 = Minor Major7 aka: Minor Natural 7 (example AmMaj7)

1, b 3, 5 + b7 = Minor 7 (example Dm7)
ii – iii – vi

Starting with the Diminished Triad of 1, b3, b5

1, b3, b5 + 7 = Diminished Major 7 (example Fdim(Maj7))

1, b3, b5 + b7 = Minor 7 b5 (aka ø7 which means half diminished 7) (example Bm7b5)
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1, b3, b5 + bb7 = º7 (which means diminished 7) (example G#dim7)

Starting with the Augmented Triad of 1, 3, #5

1, 3, #5 + 7 = Major 7 #5 (example - Cmaj7#5)

1, 3, #5 + b7 = +7 (which means Augmented 7) (example - Gaug7)
Can be used as a substitute for the V chord.

When played in order as they occur in the Major Scale the 7th chords will go like this:

Major 7 – Minor 7 – Minor 7 – Major 7 – Dominant 7 – Minor 7 – Minor 7 b5
    I   ii   iii   IV   V   vi   vii