

9th Chords

9th chords are achieved by adding the 9th interval to any of the 7th chords. The 9th interval is the same note as the 2nd interval. The 9th interval is typically played an octave above the 2nd, but it is not necessary.

The following formulas are various 9th chords that can occur. The 9th chords that appear in the Major Scale will have roman numerals underneath them indicating where in the Major Scale they occur.

Starting with the Major 7 chord formula:

$$\underline{1, 3, 5, 7} + 9 = \text{Major 9}$$

I – IV

$$\underline{1, 3, 5, 7} + b9 = \text{Major 7 b9}$$

$$\underline{1, 3, 5, 7} + \#9 = \text{Major 7 \#9}$$

Starting with the Dominant 7 chord formula:

$$\underline{1, 3, 5, b7} + 9 = \text{Dominant 9 (can just be written as 9)}$$

V

$$\underline{1, 3, 5, b7} + b9 = \text{Dominant 7 b9}$$

$$\underline{1, 3, 5, b7} + \#9 = \text{Dominant 7 \#9}$$

Starting with the Minor 7 chord formula:

$$\underline{1, b3, 5, b7} + 9 = \text{Minor 9}$$

ii – vi

$$\underline{1, b3, 5, b7} + b9 = \text{Minor 7 b9}$$

iii

Starting with the Minor 7 b5 formula (or half diminished 7)

$$\underline{1, b3, b5, b7} + b9 = \text{Minor 7 b5 b9}$$

vii

$$\underline{1, b3, b5, b7} + 9 = \text{Minor 9 b5}$$

Here are the 9th chords in order as they appear in the Major Scale:

Major 9 – Minor 9 – Minor b9 – Major 9 – Dominant 9 – Minor 9 – Minor 7 b5 b9
I ii iii IV V vi vii