

Jazz guitar chords
sorted by

Top Note

by Don Becker



A **very** handy reference for
chord-melody guitarists

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Major Chords - with top note as:

root.....	1
2 (or 9) including sus2 chords	2
3 (or 10)	3
4 (or 11) including sus4 chords	3
#11 (or b5)	4
5.....	4
6 (or 13)	5
7.....	5

Minor Chords - with top note as:

root.....	6
2 (or 9)	6
b3.....	7
5.....	8
6.....	8
7.....	8

Dominant 7 Chords(including dominant 7sus4 chords)

with top note as:

root.....	9
b2 (or b9)	10
2 (or 9)	11
b3 (or #9)	12
3.....	13
4 (or 11)	14
b5 (#11).....	15
5.....	15
#5 (or b13)	16
6 (or 13)	17
b7.....	17

Augmented Chords - with top note as:

root	18
b3	18
#5	18

Diminished Chords - with top note as:

root	19
2 (or 9).....	19
b3	19
4 (or 11).....	19
b5 (or #11)	20
#5 (or b13)	20
6 (or 13 or bb7).....	20
7	20

Minor 7 Chords - with top note as:

root	21
2 (or 9).....	21
b3	21
4 (or 11).....	21
5	22
6 (or13).....	22
b7	22

Minor 7b5 Chords - with top note as:

root	23
2 (or 9).....	23
b3	23
4 (or 11).....	24
b5 (or#11).....	24
#5 (or b13)	24
b7	24

Introduction

This chord book is different. Chords are sorted according to their top note.

Placing a particular chord tone (ie the melody note) as the highest pitch in a chord is a central concern for chord-melody guitarists. Typical chord books - even quite large volumes of jazz chords - are not ideal for this purpose. It can be time consuming to find the chord type you need and often the particular voicing you need is either not included or is in the wrong octave and not easily transposable.

One practical purpose of **Top Note** is to speed up the process of locating the dozens of chords required for a chord-melody arrangement. All the chord diagrams listed are easily transposable, moveable shapes. Where possible, three versions of each chord voicing are given: top note on the first string, top note on the second string and top note on the third string.

Top Note's structure also provides a big advantage of a more creative kind. Say you're looking for a dominant 7b5 chord with the third on top as shown in a fake book. You'll find the chord listed amongst a bunch of other dominant 7 chords all with the third on top. It's quite likely you'll find one of these chords - perhaps a Dominant 7#5b9 or maybe a Dominant 7add4 – sounds better than the fake book's suggestion.

No chord book can include every possible chord. But with **Top Note** you'll quickly find exactly the chord you are looking for or some cool-sounding alternatives– all conveniently listed together.

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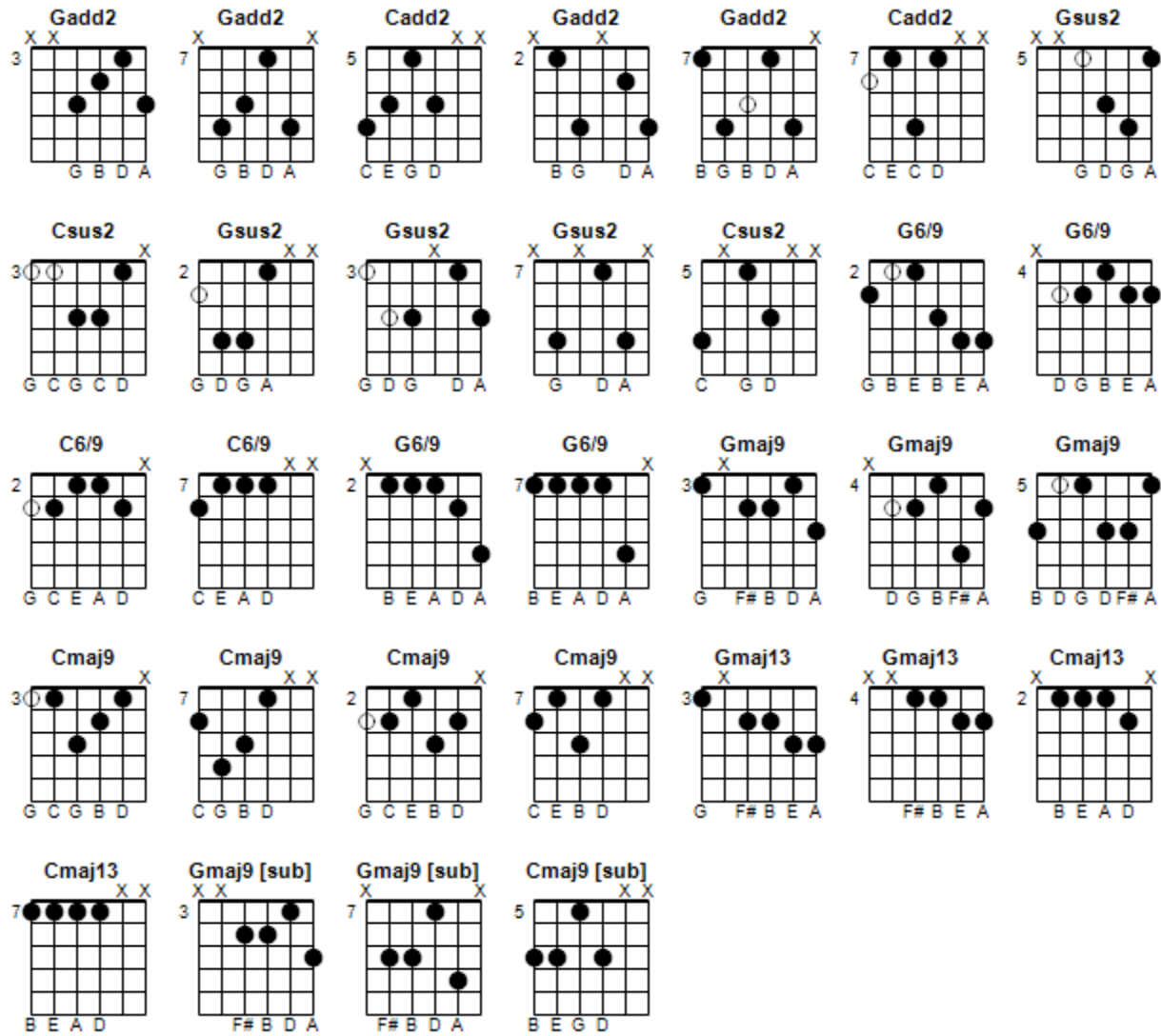
Chord Tone Names

Chord Tone

Root												
	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab
	A	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7
	A#/Bb	7	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7
	B	b7	7	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7
	C	6 13 bb7	b7	7	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13
	C#/Db	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11	5
	D	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11
	D#/Eb	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11
	E	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3
	F	3	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7	root b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9
	F#/Gb	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7	root b2 b9	2 9
	G	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7	root b2 b9
	G#/Ab	b2 b9	2 9	b3 #9	3	4 11	b5 #11	5	#5 b13	6 13 bb7	b7	7 root

Major Chords (continued)

2 (or 9) as top note:



Dominant 7 Chords (continued)

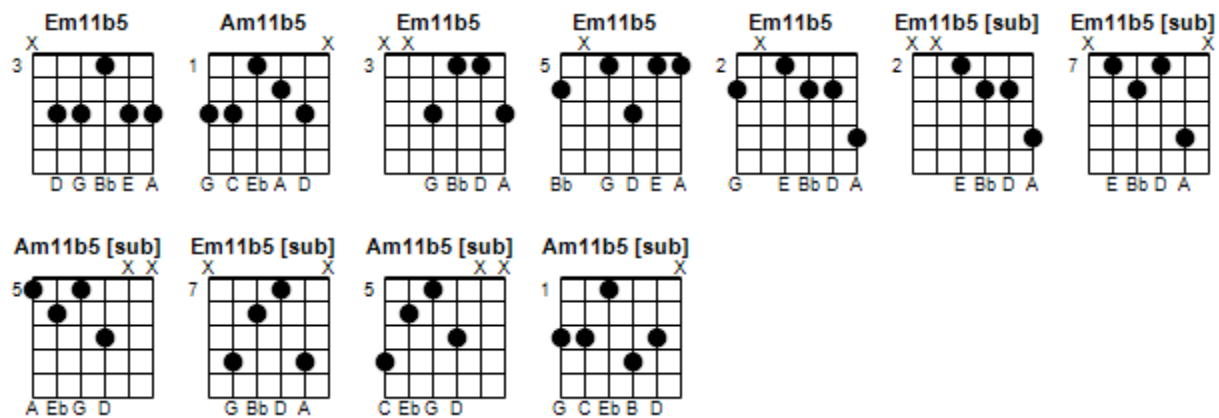
3 as top note:

The following table lists the chords shown in the diagrams, organized by row and column:

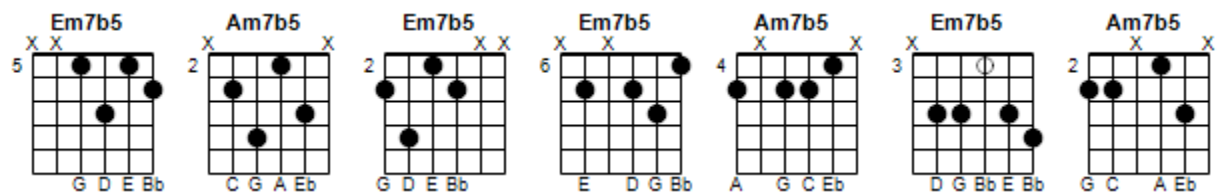
Row	Column	Chord
1	1	G7
1	2	G7
1	3	C7
1	4	C7
1	5	C7
1	6	G7
1	7	G7
2	1	G7b5
2	2	C7b5
2	3	G7b5
2	4	G7b9
2	5	C7b9
2	6	G7b9
2	7	G7b5b9
3	1	C7b5b9
3	2	G7b5b9
3	3	G7#5
3	4	C7#5
3	5	G7#5
3	6	G7#5
3	7	C7#5
4	1	G9#5
4	2	C9#5
4	3	G7#5b9
4	4	C7#5b9
4	5	G7#5b9
4	6	G7add4
4	7	C7add4
5	1	C7add4

Minor 7b5 Chords (continued)

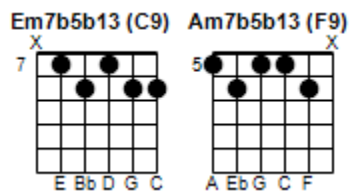
4 (or 11) as top note:



b5 (or #11) as top note:



#5 (or b13) as top note:



b7 as top note:

