

Chapter 1 – Major Family Root Chords

To begin your study of major chords in this course, you dig into learning common and essential major family chord shapes.

Major family chords are all shades of the same chordal color.

This means that if you see an A chord on a lead sheet, you can play Amaj7, Amaj9, Amaj7#11, or Am6.

The color needs to be major, and the root needs to be A, but the shade of color is up to you.

This chapter introduces you to different shades of the major family colors to learn, memorize, play around the fretboard, and have fun with on guitar.

These shapes prepare you for the challenges in future chapters, so get started on them now, then refer back to this chapter as a reference in future as needed.

Check out this major family chord colors and have fun expanding your guitar chord vocabulary in this chapter.

Major Chords

To begin, here are a selection of root position major chords to play, memorize, take to different keys, and explore across your fretboard.

Major chords are three-note shapes that use the following interval pattern:

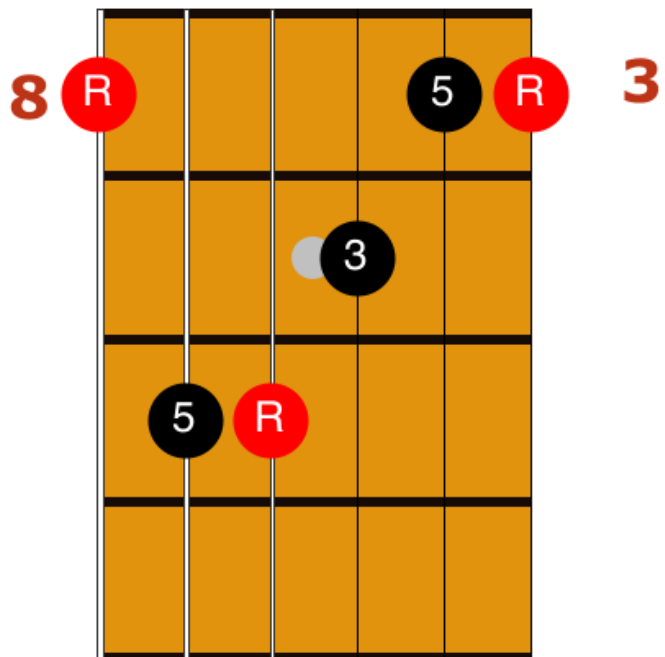
- Major = 1-3-5
- A = A C# E

As you play through the shapes below, here are tips to get the most out of these major chords in your playing.

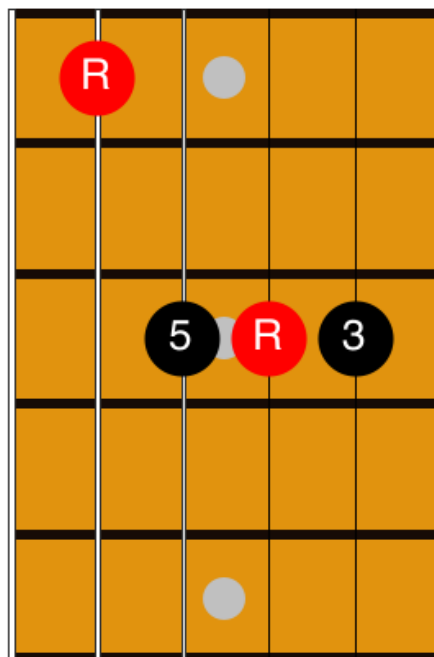
- Play through the first chord, strum or pluck the full chord.
- Pluck each note in the chord separately and sing along if possible.
- Play the chord in different keys on the fretboard.
- Say the name of each chord as you play it, red circle is root note.
- Move on to another shape and repeat above exercises.
- Mix both shapes together in different keys on the neck.
- Move on to the rest of the shapes below and repeat the above exercises.
- Use a metronome or tap your foot when jamming these chords.
- Have fun!

Have fun exploring these major chords, memorizing them, playing them around the fretboard, and getting ready for challenges in future chapters.

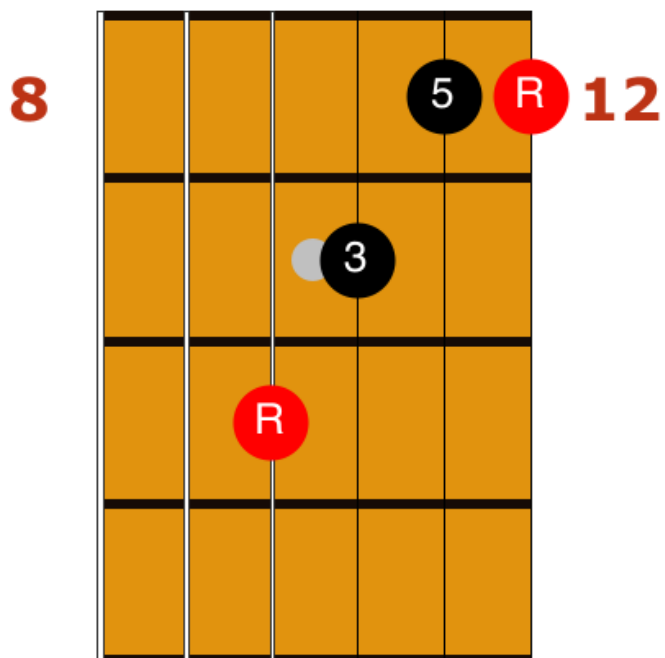
C



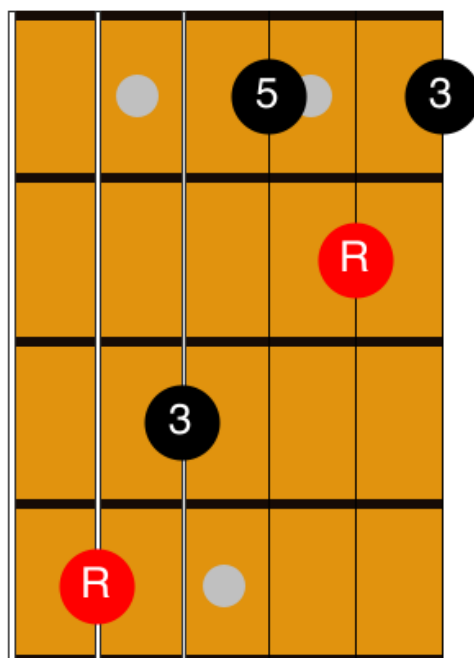
C



C



C



maj7 Chords

Moving on, here are a selection of root position maj7 chords to play, memorize, take to different keys, and explore across your fretboard.

maj7 chords are four-note shapes that use the following interval pattern:

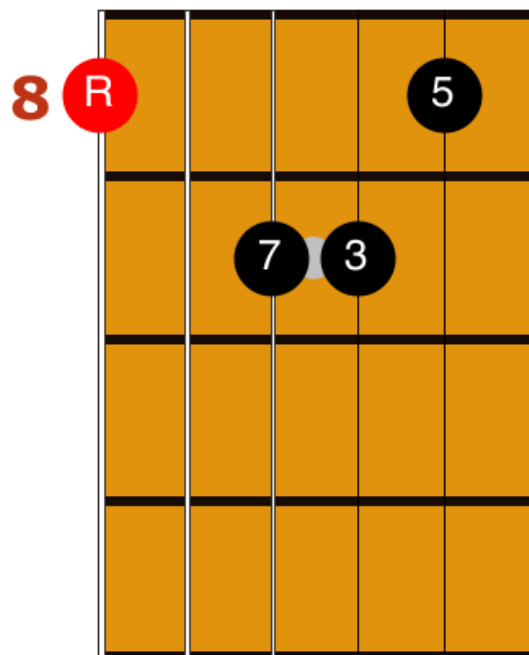
- maj7 = 1-3-5-7
- Amaj7 = A C# E G#

As you play through the shapes below, here are tips to get the most out of these maj7 chords in your playing.

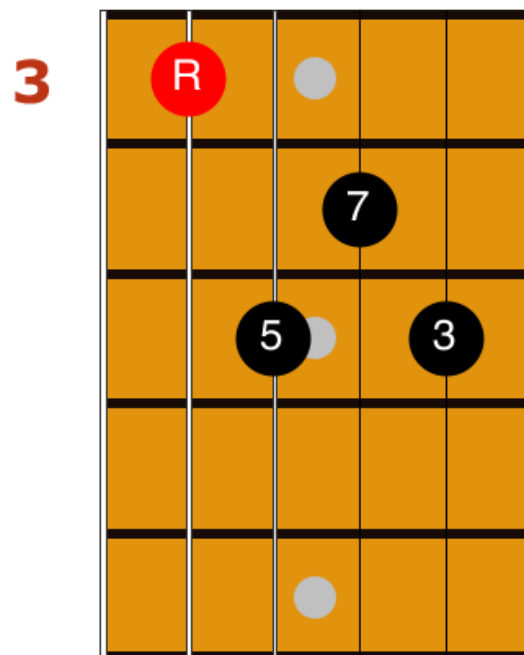
- Play through the first chord, strum or pluck the full chord.
- Pluck each note in the chord separately and sing along if possible.
- Play the chord in different keys on the fretboard.
- Say the name of each chord as you play it, red circle is root note.
- Move on to another shape and repeat above exercises.
- Mix both shapes together in different keys on the neck.
- Move on to the rest of the shapes below and repeat the above exercises.
- Use a metronome or tap your foot when jamming these chords.
- Have fun!

Have fun exploring these maj7 chords, memorizing them, playing them around the fretboard, and getting ready for challenges in future chapters.

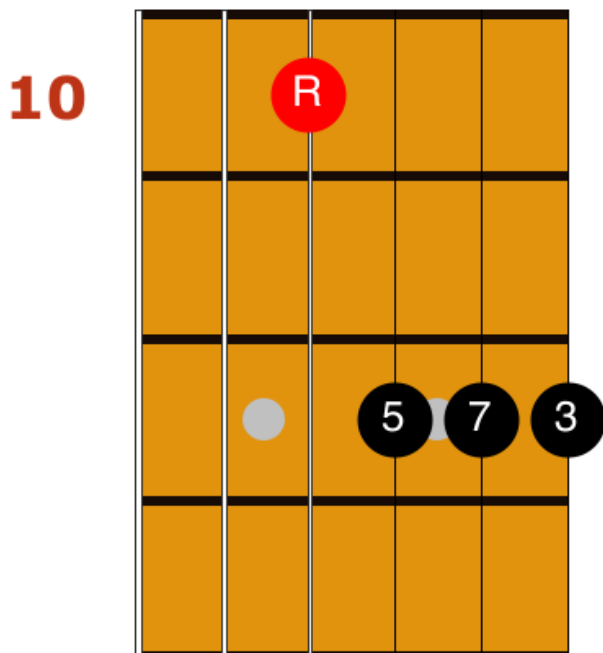
Cmaj7



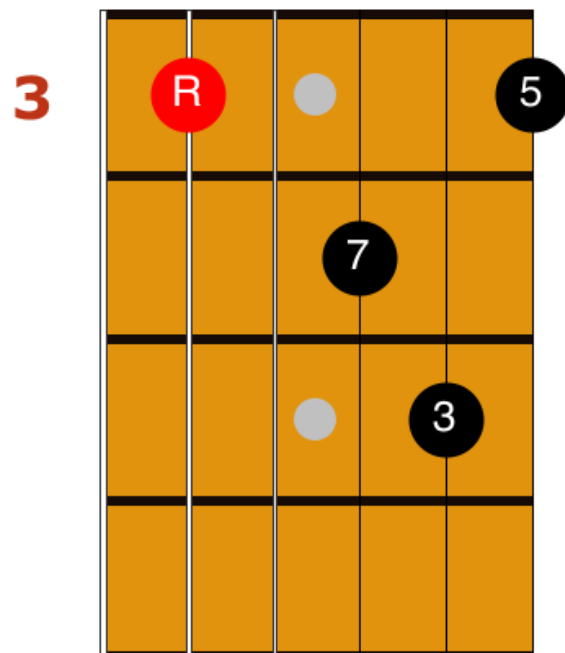
Cmaj7



Cmaj7



Cmaj7



maj6 or 6 Chords

Moving on, here are a selection of root position 6 chords to play, memorize, take to different keys, and explore across your fretboard.

6 chords are four-note shapes that use the following interval pattern:

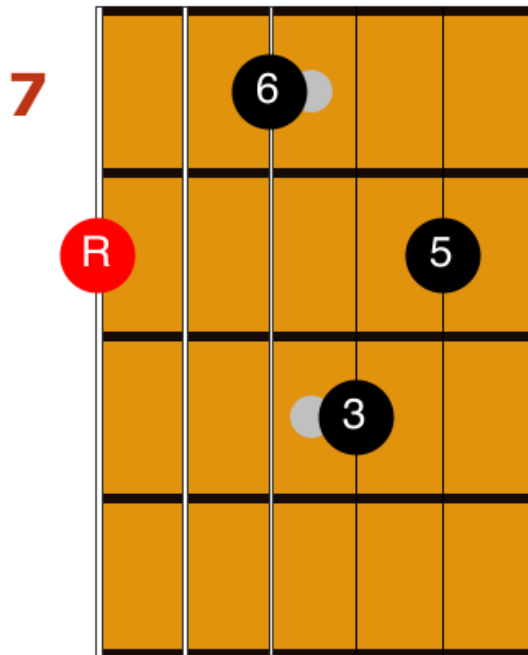
- 6 = 1-3-5-6
- A6 = A C# E F#

As you play through the shapes below, here are tips to get the most out of these 6 chords in your playing.

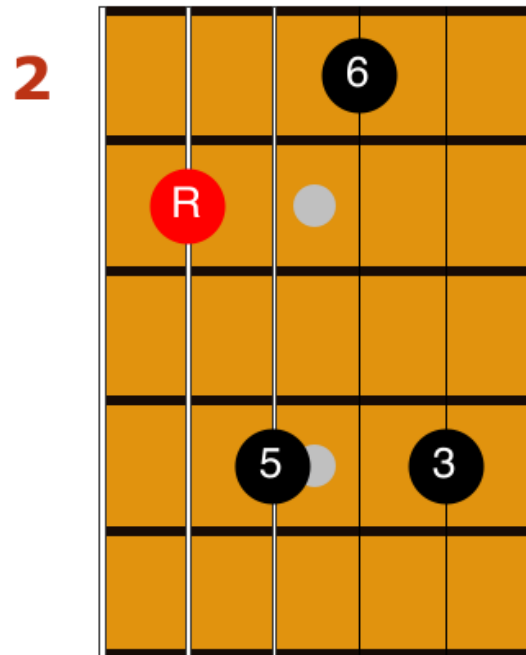
- Play through the first chord, strum or pluck the full chord.
- Pluck each note in the chord separately and sing along if possible.
- Play the chord in different keys on the fretboard.
- Say the name of each chord as you play it, red circle is root note.
- Move on to another shape and repeat above exercises.
- Mix both shapes together in different keys on the neck.
- Move on to the rest of the shapes below and repeat the above exercises.
- Use a metronome or tap your foot when jamming these chords.
- Have fun!

Have fun exploring these 6 chords, memorizing them, playing them around the fretboard, and getting ready for challenges in future chapters.

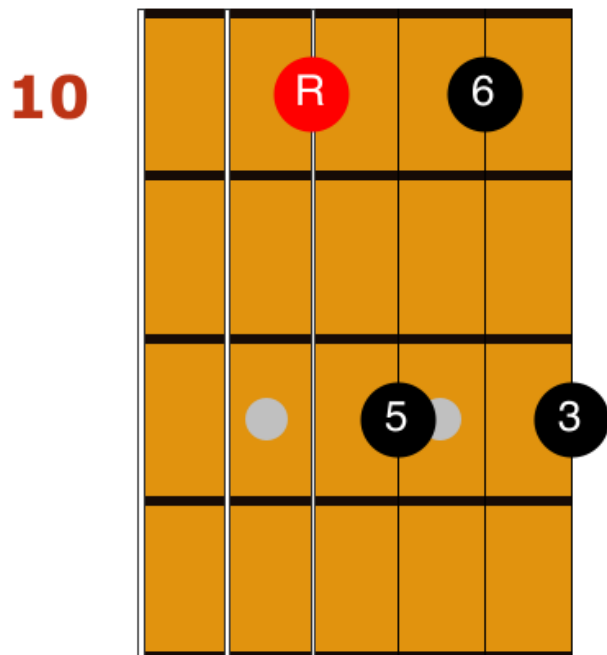
C6



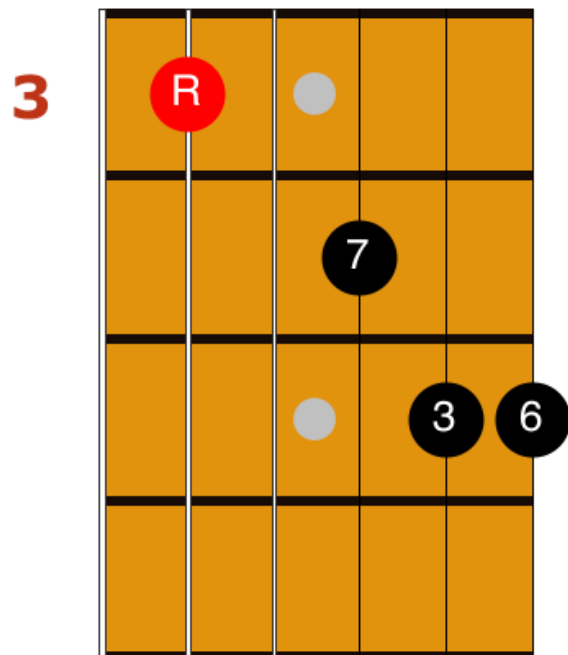
C6



C6



C6



maj9 Chords

Moving on, here are a selection of root position maj9 chords to play, memorize, take to different keys, and explore across your fretboard.

maj9 chords are five-note shapes that use the following interval pattern:

- maj9 = 1-3-5-7-9
- Amaj9 = A C# E G# B

Because you only have so many fingers and strings to play with, you often leave one or more notes out of any maj9 chord.

You can see this in the second shape below, where you use the intervals 1-3-7-9, leaving the 5 out of that shape to make it playable.

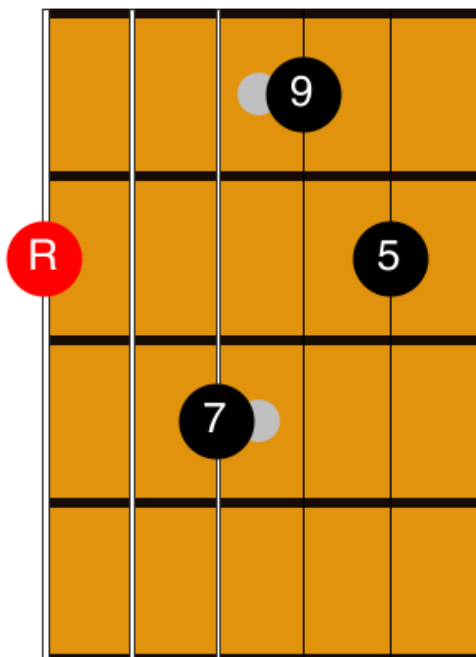
As you play through the shapes below, here are tips to get the most out of these m9 chords in your playing.

- Play through the first chord, strum or pluck the full chord.
- Pluck each note in the chord separately and sing along if possible.
- Play the chord in different keys on the fretboard.
- Say the name of each chord as you play it, red circle is root note.
- Move on to another shape and repeat above exercises.
- Mix both shapes together in different keys on the neck.
- Move on to the rest of the shapes below and repeat the above exercises.
- Use a metronome or tap your foot when jamming these chords.
- Have fun!

Have fun exploring these maj9 chords, memorizing them, playing them around the fretboard, and getting ready for challenges in future chapters.

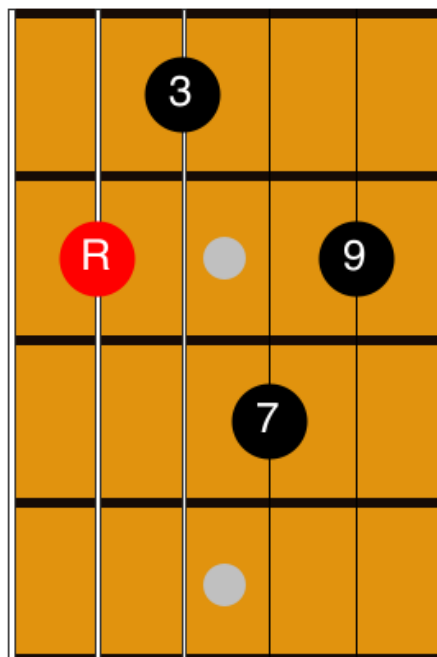
Cmaj9

7



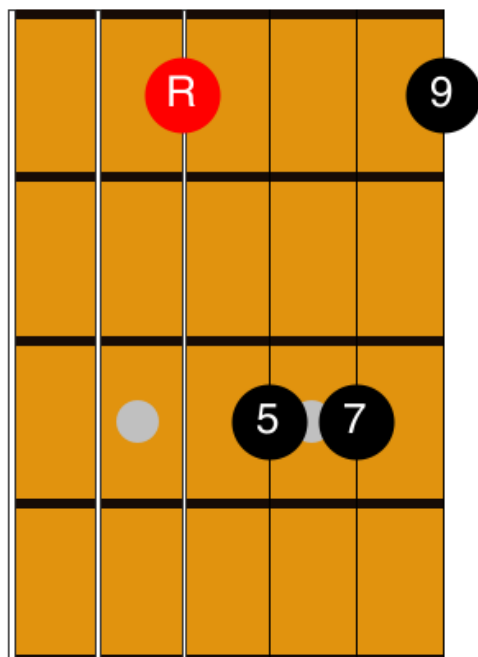
Cmaj9

2



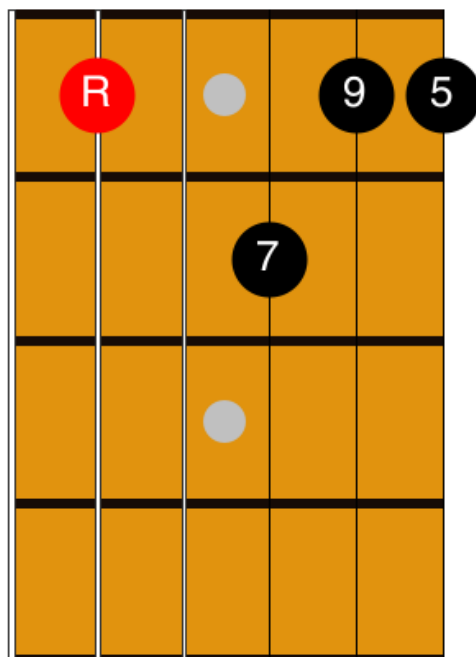
Cmaj9

10



Cmaj9

3



maj7#11 Chords

Moving on, here are a selection of root position maj7#11 chords to play, memorize, take to different keys, and explore across your fretboard.

maj7#11 chords are six-note shapes that use the following interval pattern:

- maj7#11 = 1-3-5-7-9-#11
- Amaj7#11 = A C# E G# B D#

Because you only have so many fingers and strings to play with, you often leave one or more notes out of any maj7#11 chord.

You can see this in the second shape below, where you use the intervals 1-#11-7-3, leaving the 5 and 9 out of that shape to make it playable.

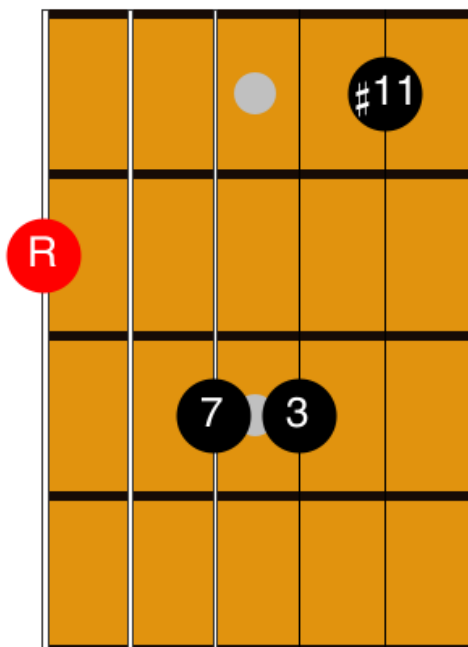
As you play through the shapes below, here are tips to get the most out of these maj7#11 chords in your playing.

- Play through the first chord, strum or pluck the full chord.
- Pluck each note in the chord separately and sing along if possible.
- Play the chord in different keys on the fretboard.
- Say the name of each chord as you play it, red circle is root note.
- Move on to another shape and repeat above exercises.
- Mix both shapes together in different keys on the neck.
- Move on to the rest of the shapes below and repeat the above exercises.
- Use a metronome or tap your foot when jamming these chords.
- Have fun!

Have fun exploring these maj7#11 chords, memorizing them, playing them around the fretboard, and getting ready for challenges in future chapters.

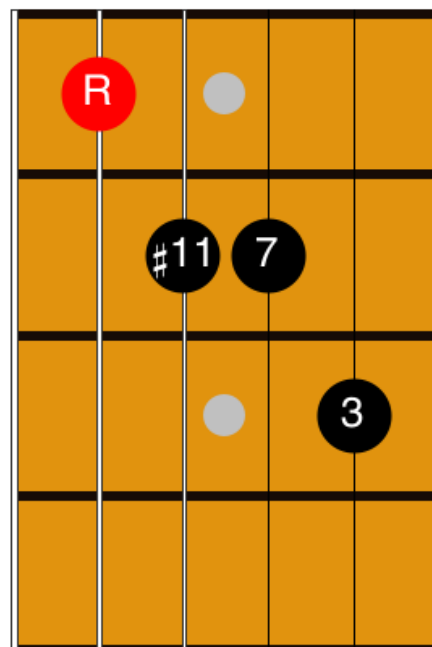
Cmaj7#11

7



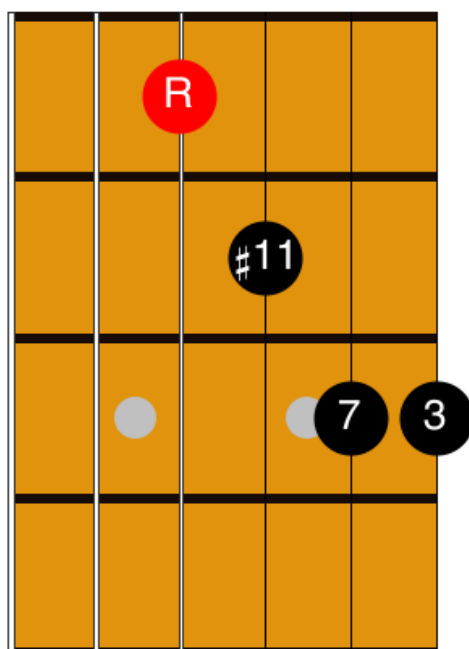
Cmaj7#11

3



Cmaj7#11

10



Cmaj7#11

2

