

Figure 11-1. Key to understanding chord symbols

TRIADS

Letter with no additional symbol = major quality; letter given is root

Example: G means G major in root position

Letter followed by "m," "-", or "Min." = minor quality; letter given is root

Example: G Min. means G minor in root position

Letter followed by "d" or "Dim." = diminished quality; letter given is root

Example: G Dim. means G diminished in root position

Letter followed by "Aug.," "#5," or "+" = augmented quality; letter given is root

Example: G Aug. means G augmented in root position

CHORDS IN INVERSION

Letter followed by a "/" and another letter indicates a chord in inversion. The first letter given is the root, and the letter following the "/" is the bass note.

Example: G Min./B= means G minor in first inversion

SEVENTH CHORDS

Letter followed by a "7" = major-minor seventh chord; letter given is root

Letter followed by a "Maj.7" or "triangle7" or "uppercase M7" = major-major seventh chord; letter given is root

Letter followed by a "Min.7" or "-7" or "lowercase m7" = minor-minor seventh chord; letter given is root

Letter followed by a "-7flat5" or "lowercase m7flat5" = half-diminished seventh chord; letter given is root

Letter followed by a "Dim.7" = fully-diminished seventh chord; letter given is root