

BUILDING THE ELEVEN
BARBERSHOP CHORDS

Six chords constructed on the Major Triad:

Major Triad Barbershop 7th Barbershop 9th Major 6th Major 7th Major 9th

⁷ **Three chords constructed on the Minor Triad:**

Two symmetrical chords:

Minor Triad Minor 6th Minor 7th Diminished 7th Augmented

To construct the eleven BBS chords in any key, use the name of the chord as a root or first scale step and then build the chords:

MAJOR TRIAD CHORDS:

- 1) Major Triad = 1 + 3 + 5
- 2) BBS 7th = 1 + 3 + 5 + 7^b (also called Dominant 7th)
- 3) BBS 9th = 1 + 3 + 5 + 7^b + 9 (root usually omitted, may be 5th)
- 4) Major 6th = 1 + 3 + 5 + 6
- 5) Major 7th = 1 + 3 + 5 + 7
- 6) Major 9th = 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 7th is ALWAYS omitted.

MINOR TRIAD CHORDS:

- 1) Minor Triad = 1 + 3^b + 5
- 2) Minor 6th = 1 + 3^b + 5 + 6
- 3) Minor 7th = 1 + 3^b + 5 + 7^b

SYMMETRICAL CHORDS

- 1) Diminished 7th: 1 + 3^b + 5^b + 7^{bb} (usually written as a 6th)
- 2) Augmented: 1 + 3 + #5