

The "Big 5" Chord Shapes Exercise

Great Warmup with Common Voicings

(all chords diatonic in C major)

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Practice ascending and descending!

Chord shapes for Cmaj7, Dm7, Em7, Fmaj7, G7, Am7, Bm7(b5), and Cmaj7 are shown across five systems. Each system includes a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature, a guitar tablature staff, and a vertical line indicating the fret position for each chord.

System 1: Cmaj7 (5, 4, 5, 3), Dm7 (6, 5, 7, 5), Em7 (8, 7, 9, 7), Fmaj7 (10, 9, 10, 8), G7 (12, 10, 12, 10), Am7 (13, 12, 14, 12), Bm7(b5) (15, 14, 15, 14), Cmaj7 (17, 16, 17, 15).

System 2: Cmaj7 (3, 1, 4, 2), Dm7 (5, 3, 5, 3), Em7 (7, 5, 7, 5), Fmaj7 (8, 6, 9, 7), G7 (10, 8, 10, 9), Am7 (12, 10, 12, 10), Bm7(b5) (13, 12, 14, 12), Cmaj7 (15, 13, 16, 14).

System 3: Cmaj7 (3, 5, 4, 3), Dm7 (5, 6, 5, 5), Em7 (7, 8, 7, 7), Fmaj7 (8, 10, 9, 8), G7 (10, 12, 10, 10), Am7 (12, 13, 12, 12), Bm7(b5) (13, 15, 14, 14), Cmaj7 (15, 17, 16, 15).

System 4: Cmaj7 (1, 4, 2, 3), Dm7 (3, 5, 3, 5), Em7 (5, 7, 5, 7), Fmaj7 (6, 7, 9, 7), G7 (8, 10, 9, 10), Am7 (10, 12, 10, 10), Bm7(b5) (12, 14, 12, 12), Cmaj7 (13, 14, 12, 14).

System 5: Cmaj7 (4, 2, 3, 3), Dm7 (5, 3, 5, 5), Em7 (7, 5, 7, 7), Fmaj7 (9, 7, 9, 8), G7 (10, 9, 10, 10), Am7 (12, 10, 12, 12), Bm7(b5) (14, 12, 14, 13), Cmaj7 (16, 14, 15, 15).