



Hello friends,

Welcome to another music theory tutorial. In today’s session we will be discussing the difference between two chords with very similar names, the Cadd9 and the C9 chord. We’ll begin by reviewing how our basic major chord is created using the major scale, before discovering what additional harmonies must be added to create the add9 and 9 chords. Let’s get started!

### Section #1: The Major Scale – Key of C

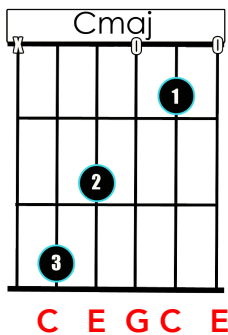
The major scale is created by traveling through the musical alphabet using a particular sequence of whole steps (W) and half steps (H): **W, W, H, W, W, W, H**

Let’s apply that sequence to the key of Cmaj:

A Bb B **C** C# **D** Eb **E F** F# **G** G# **A** Bb **B C**  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

### Section #2: Building a Major Chord – 1.3.5 Harmony

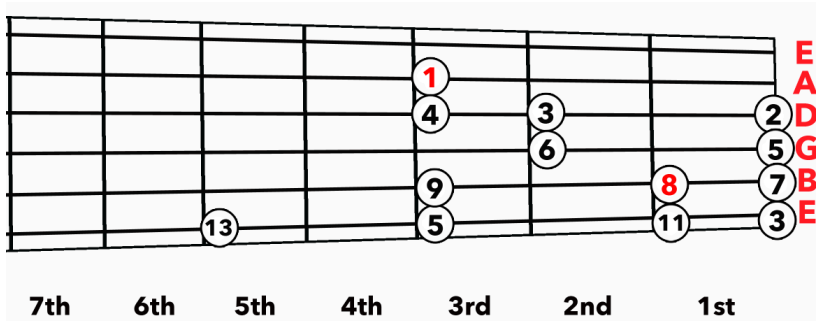
A basic major chord triad is created from the major scale by harmonizing it’s 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> notes. In the key of C, a major chord would contain the notes C, E, and G.



Note: Numbers on Chord Diagram Represent Fingers

### Section #3: C Major Scale - Open Position

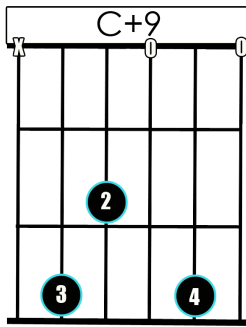
In this section, let’s discover how to play this C major scale in the open C position. As we get into the second octave, notice how the notes that were not a part of the major chord are labeled 9, 11, and 13, this indicates that they are in the second octave. Example: the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> scale degrees are the same note, one octave apart.





### Section #4: Building the Add9 Chord – 1.3.5.9 Harmony

Many students are confused when they see the chord name “add9” because there are only 7 notes and an octave in a major scale. The 9<sup>th</sup> scale degree is simply the octave of the second scale degree. In the key of C, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> scale degrees are D. Since this harmony calls for the 9<sup>th</sup> scale degree, we know to look for the D note in the next octave of the scale. We'll find that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret B string.



### Section #5: Building the 9 Chord – 1.3.5.b7.9 Harmony

In chord theory, the term “add” tells us to place one additional harmony on top of a basic triad like C major. The absence of that term automatically implies that the dominant or flatted 7<sup>th</sup> scale degree is to be included, so for this chord we will be harmonizing the notes C, E, G (the major triad) with Bb and D (the b7 and 9<sup>th</sup> scale degrees.) Here's a common way of performing this chord:

