Cmaj9 Guitar Chord Chart

C major 9th · notes C E G B D · formula 1 3 5 7 9 · 2 voicings

Interactive page: triads-guitar.com/chords/c-maj9 · Build any chord: triads-guitar.com/chord-library-app

The formula



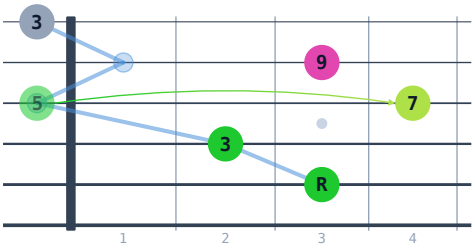
Character: 🌿 lush

- **Triad note** root, 3rd or 5th, played in its place
- **Substitute** an extension on a triad note's string
- **Added** an extension on a string of its own
- **Anchored root** the root on the string below
- **Bass** a slash chord's bass note
- **Doubling** the same note an octave away

2 ways to play Cmaj9

C shape · Root position

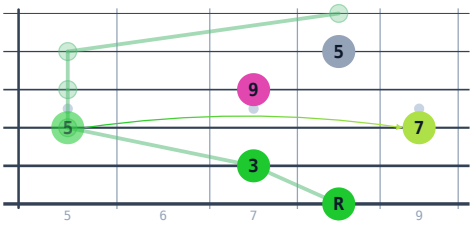
Cmaj9



x 3 2 4 3 0
1 3 7 9 (C E B D)
Base triad: C major, root position The 7th takes the 5th's string. The 9th gets a string of its own.

G shape · Root position

Cmaj9



8 7 9 7 8 x
1 3 7 9 (C E B D)
Base triad: C major, root position The 7th takes the 5th's string. The 9th gets a string of its own.

Construction rules

Start from a triad. Root, 3rd and 5th, stacked in thirds. The 3rd makes it major or minor; the 5th makes it diminished or augmented when it moves.

A third on top makes a 7th chord. A major 7th over a major triad is maj7, a ♭7 is a dominant 7. Over minor you get m7 or m(maj7); over diminished, m7♭5 or the °7, whose 7th is lowered twice.

Keep stacking for extensions. The 9th, 11th and 13th are the 2nd, 4th and 6th an octave up. Each one sits on the stack below it: a 9th chord holds a 7th, a 13th holds the 9th and 11th in theory.

On guitar, something has to give. Each extension takes the string of a triad note that matters less, usually the 5th, or gets a string of its own. The root and 3rd stay: they say what the chord is.