

Reading Chord Charts (Theory 101)

Think of the notes of the C scale as numbers:

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9		11		13

C	=	1,3,5	(can be played in any inversion)
C2	=	1,2,3,5	(usually played w/out the 3)
Csus	=	1,4,5	(also written as C4)
C5	=	1,5	(also written as open 5)
C6	=	1,3,6	(identical to Am)
C7	=	1,3,5, b7	(rt hd. play 7 th on bottom)
Cmaj7	=	1,3,5,7	(rt hd. play 7 th on bottom)
C9	=	1,3,5,b7,9	(C7, add 2)
Cmaj9	=	1,3,5,7,9	(Cmaj7, add 2)
C11	=	1,3,5,b7,9,11	(usually written as a Bb/C)
Cmaj11	=	1,3,5,7,9,11	
C13	=	1,3,5,b7,9,11,13	(drop the root 1 tone, raise the 5 th 1 tone)
C+, Caug	=	1,4,#5	(raise the 5 th ½ step)
Cm	=	1,b3,5	
Cm2	=	1,2,b3,5	
Cm6	=	1,b3,6	
Cm7	=	1,b3,5,b7	(rt hd, play 7 th on bottom)
Cdim	=	1,b3,b5	
Cdim7	=	1,b3,b5,bb7	
C/E	=	C in rt hand, E in left hand (bass)	