

# ALTERED CHORD SOUNDS

The most commonly altered chord is the dominant 7. There are many alteration possibilities, but we are going to focus only on the most common, namely, the altered 5th and 9th. Each of these altered tones can be either raised or lowered depending on taste, context and idiom. Some typical spellings are: 7<sup>#5</sup>, 7<sup>#9</sup>, 7<sup>b5</sup>, 7<sup>b5</sup><sup>#9</sup>, 7<sup>#5</sup><sup>b9</sup>. Try out the following sounds on the fretboard. When you have them under your fingers insert them in the dominant 7 category as follows:

7<sup>#5</sup> 7<sup>#9</sup> 7<sup>b5</sup> 7<sup>b5</sup><sup>#9</sup> 7<sup>#5</sup><sup>b9</sup>

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The staff contains four measures. The first measure is a D minor 7 chord (Dm<sup>7</sup>). The second measure is a G dominant 7 chord (G<sup>7</sup>), with a bracket above it labeled "Dominant". The third measure is a C major 7 chord (Cmaj<sup>7</sup>). The fourth measure contains a double bar line, a slash, and a repeat sign. The staff ends with a double bar line.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The staff contains four measures. The first measure is a D minor 7 chord (Dm<sup>7</sup>). The second measure is a G dominant 7 chord with a sharp 5th (G<sup>7</sup><sup>#5</sup>), with a bracket above it labeled "Altered Dominant". The third measure is a C major 7 chord (Cmaj<sup>7</sup>). The fourth measure contains a double bar line, a slash, and a repeat sign. The staff ends with a double bar line.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The staff contains four measures. The first measure is a D minor 7 chord (Dm<sup>7</sup>). The second measure is a G dominant 7 chord with a sharp 9th and a flat 5th (G<sup>7</sup><sup>#9</sup><sup>b5</sup>), with a bracket above it labeled "Altered Dominant". The third measure is a C major 7 chord (Cmaj<sup>7</sup>). The fourth measure contains a double bar line, a slash, and a repeat sign. The staff ends with a double bar line.