



ALTERED DOMINANT CHORDS

THE JAZZ GUITARISTS BEST FRIEND

Altered Dominant Chords: “Alt” Chords

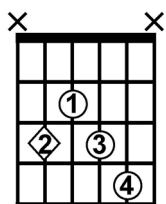
It was always a confusing chord symbol... “C alt”. You’ll see it in Jazz, Gospel and maybe R&B charts. So, what does it mean?

An “altered” chord raises or lowers the 5th and/or 9th steps.

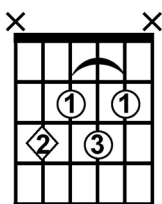
Unlike other chord names which are very specific, this chord name indicates a variety of chords that would work. Often called, Altered Dominant Chords, these “alt” chords are used entirely on the Dominant or V7 chord in a progression.

For example, of these chords would work as a “C Alt”.

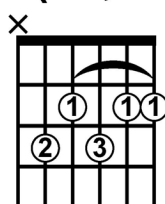
C7(#9)



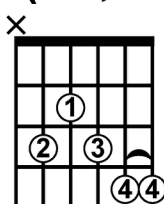
C7(b9)



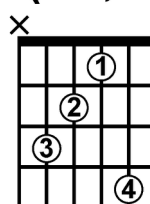
C7(b5,b9)



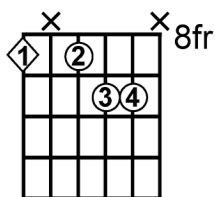
C7(#5,#9)



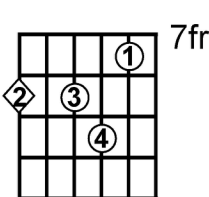
C7(#5,#9)



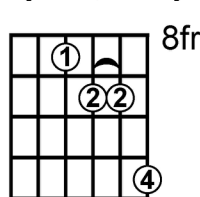
C7(#5)



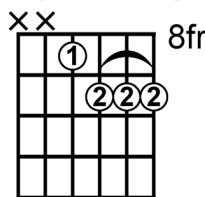
C7(b5)



C7(#5,#9)



C7(#5,b9)



Practice these in a ii-V-I progression in F using the altered dominants over the V chord (C7).

Gm7-C7-Fmaj7