

# Basic Pop Chord Notation - Cheat Sheet

Things to know:

- The root of the chord gives us the letter name for the chord symbol (i.e. D major triad = D)
- Pop chords then expect everything to be in that key (except the 7th)...if it isn't, it's notated.
- The 7th of a pop chord is always assumed to be minor (so that the basic chord is a dominant)
- If it isn't minor, it's notated.
- If a chord is in inversion, use the root as the name, then add /[bassnote]. So Bb major in 1st inversion would be Bb/D

The image shows a musical staff with two systems of staves (treble and bass clef) in 4/4 time. Above the staff are eight chord symbols: C, F7, FM7, B°7, Bm7b5, Dm, Dm7, and CM7/E. The chords are represented by notes on the staff: C (C4, E4, G4), F7 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), FM7 (C4, E4, G4, Bb4), B°7 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), Bm7b5 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), Dm (F3, A3, B3), Dm7 (F3, A3, B3, C4), and CM7/E (C4, E4, G4, Bb4). The bass clef shows the root note of each chord: C, F, F, Bb, Bb, D, D, C.

↑

Sometimes  
F<sup>M</sup>a<sup>7</sup>  
Or  
F<sup>Δ</sup>7

The M refers to the 7th, not the triad

Notice that the default 7th is the minor 7th

↑

Sometimes  
B<sup>dim</sup>7

This is a fancy way of writing half-diminished.

You'll also sometimes see the ∅

Sometimes  
D-  
Or  
D<sup>min</sup>

The m refers to the triad, not the 7th

Slash Notation tells us that the bass is not the root.