

## Lesson 1 – 7th Chords

**In this Lesson:** By the end of this lesson you will be able to play 2 different 7th chord shapes using a common swing blues rhythm.

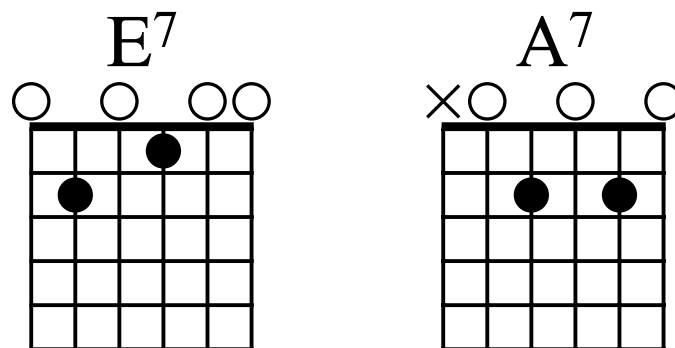
Most blues revolves around a type of chord called a 7th chord.

When we have a chord like E7, the chord name tells us two things. First, the chord starts on E. Second, the quality of the chord is dominant 7th.

All chords have a quality. Chord qualities are things like major, minor, diminished, major 7th, minor 7th, dominant 7th, 9th, augmented, and many others. G7 and C7 are not the same chord, but they have the same chord quality.

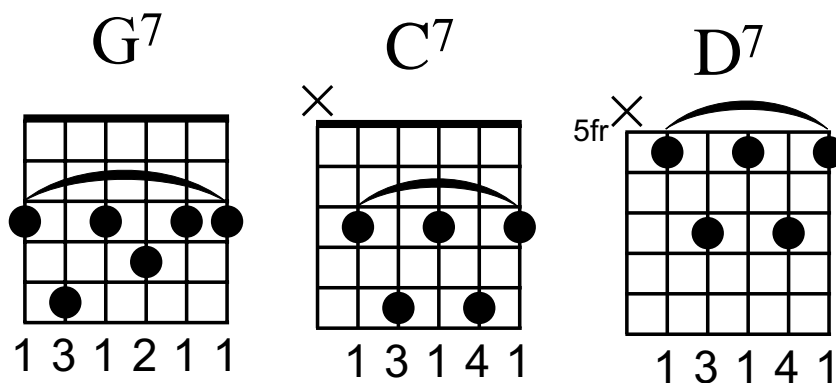
Also keep in mind that E7 is a shorthand notation for E dominant 7, and is different from an E major 7 or an E minor 7.

E7 and A7 are open position chords meaning they utilize some open strings:



Those are great, but unless you are playing in the key of E (which is only 1 of 12 possible keys) you are going to have to move these chord shapes into their barre chord equivalents to have them available in other keys.

Let's look at moving the E7 up to a G7, and the A7 up to a C7 and then a D7



Keep in mind that for all of these chord shapes, the lowest note (in pitch) is the root note. That means that for G7, the lowest note is G. For C7, the lowest note is C, and for D7, the lowest note is D.

Let's put these three chords together into a simple blues shuffle pattern.

Rhythmically, we're going to do this strum pattern:



To execute the rest and get the best sound, lay the heel and palm of your right hand across the strings. I also tend to do a down strum, but I don't really hit the strings with my pick. That way I'm ready for the following up strum which almost always happens after a rest.

The swing feel is also really important in the blues. You know what they say, it ain't got a thing...

The swing feel comes from the fact that when you play in a swing feel you actually subdivide the beat into 3 pieces instead of 2 pieces like you do with standard 1/8th notes. It comes from the sound the old steam engines used to make, or so the legend goes. So keep that in mind. You're going for the "chug --- a chug ---- a chug" that the old locomotives made.

Now, here's the whole tune. First try playing along with me on the slow version, then play with me on the full speed version. Finally, play along with the jam track and you will be the only guitar.

**EXAMPLE 1-1, CD 1 TRACKS 1-2 (TRACK 5 IS JAM TRACK)**