Basic Harmony

Jazz (and popular music) harmony is based on the diatonic major scale.

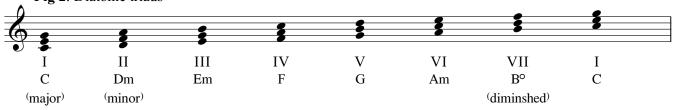
Fig 1.Scale of C



Classical music uses the **Triad** as it's basic harmonic unit.

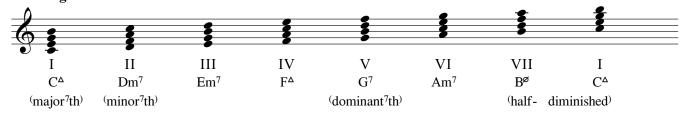
This contains 3 different chord "qualities": major, minor and diminished.

Fig 2. Diatonic triads



Jazz uses four note chords-Sevenths, as it's basic harmonic unit.

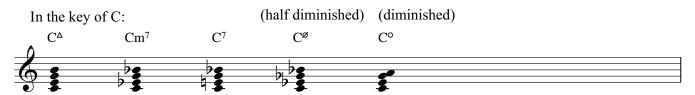
This contains 4 different chord "qualities": major 7th, dominant 7th, minor 7th, and half-diminished. **Fig 3**. Diatonic sevenths.



One chord which is used extensively in Jazz falls outside the diatonic scale- the **DIMINSHED 7th**.



Together, these represent the 5 CHORD QUALITIES that we use in Jazz.



The intervals used in the five chord qualities are:

