

Shell Voice = R-3-7 of given chord

Shell voicings provide the defining qualities of a chord with minimal voices.

- Root - defines tonal center
- 3rd - determines major/minor
- 7th - defines quality of extension

Shell Voicings



Root on 6th String

Chord	Diagram	Interval
CΔ		R-7-3
C7		R-b7-3
Cm7		R-b7 -b3

Tablature for Root on 6th String:

String	CΔ	C7	Cm7
T	9	9	8
A	9	8	8
B	8	8	8

Root on 5th String

Chord	Diagram	Interval
CΔ		R-3-7
C7		R-3-b7
Cm7		R-b3-b7

Tablature for Root on 5th String:

String	CΔ	C7	Cm7
T	4	3	3
A	2	2	1
B	3	3	3

Voice the chords below with shell voicings

(use roots on the 6th and 5th string to avoid traveling large distances across the fingerboard)

Chord	Diagram
Am7	
D7	
GΔ	
CΔ	

Tablature for Voice the chords below with shell voicings:

String	Am7	D7	GΔ	CΔ
T	/	/	/	/
A	/	/	/	/
B	/	/	/	/

Chord	Diagram
F#m7	
B7	
Em7	
Em7	

Tablature for Voice the chords below with shell voicings:

String	F#m7	B7	Em7	Em7
T	/	/	/	/
A	/	/	/	/
B	/	/	/	/

Notes:

- Learn the intervals in each fingering. If you can identify where the 3rd of your chord is it becomes much easier to alter voices.
- The voicings above allow you to play competently over most charts using minimal chord shapes
- Practice sight reading charts/chord changes at tempo with shell voices
- Once you feel comfortable with the chords rooted on 6th and 5th string start exploring shell voicings with root on 4th string
- As you grow with the shell voice start adding other intervals to your chords (5,6,9,11,13)