

# Ear Training - Learning to Hear Diminished

(i<sup>o</sup>, i<sup>o</sup>6(<sup>o</sup>7), i<sup>o</sup>Δ7 )

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Let's be clear: Diminished color is a sound, a *sound* best understood and *heard* as having at least two tones (the 3rd and the 5th) that scream for resolution.

Look:

Diagram 1: Bb (Handwritten)

Diagram 2: Bbm (Handwritten)

Diagram 3: Bb (Handwritten)

Diagram 4: Bbo (Handwritten)

Diagram 5: Bb (Printed)

Diagram 6: Bb07 (Printed)

Diagram 7: Bb (Printed)

Musical notation below shows the corresponding chords on a staff: Bb, Bbm, Bb, Bbo, Bb, Bb07, Bb.

Doubts about this?

Diagram 1: Bb (Printed)

Diagram 2: Bb07 (Printed)

Diagram 3: Bb (Printed)

Diagram 4: Bb (Printed)

Diagram 5: Bb0Δ7 (Printed)

Diagram 6: Bb (Printed)

Diagram 7: Bb06 (Handwritten)

Diagram 8: Bb (Printed)

Musical notation below shows the corresponding chords on a staff: Bb, Bb07, Bb, Bb, Bb0Δ7, Bb, Bb06, Bb. Includes a triplet of notes and a note with an 'X' over it.

also try F#

It's easy to understand:

Diagram 1: MAJ (Handwritten)

Diagram 2: 3 MAJ6 (Handwritten)

Diagram 3: 3 MIN (Handwritten)

Diagram 4: 3 MIN6 (Handwritten)

Diagram 5: DIM (Handwritten)

Diagram 6: 3 DIM6 (Handwritten)

Musical notation below shows the corresponding chords on a staff: MAJ, 3 MAJ6, 3 MIN, 3 MIN6, DIM, 3 DIM6.

So why has this chord been called <sup>o</sup>7 [diminished 7] for centuries?

Two reasons, both historical, one having to do with 3rd intervals, the other with the Harmonic Minor. But using Bb as an example, let's look at this.

We *can* spell the Bb<sup>o</sup>6 chord: Bb, Db, Fb (E) and Abb and thereby call it Bb<sup>o</sup>7.

But it is just as easy and sensible in more cases to spell it with a G instead of a Abb.

(Frankly, it's not about spelling anyway...rather good sense.)

What do you think? Be ready for *either* name for now.



Has this  $\circ\Delta 7$  [diminished major 7] business got you in a quandary? Never fear, it too is easy:

The image displays six guitar chord diagrams and a musical staff. Each diagram is a 6-string grid with a circled '8' at the bottom left, indicating the root note. The diagrams are labeled with handwritten text above them:  $B^b$ ,  $B^b\Delta 7$ ,  $B^b m$ ,  $B^b m\Delta 7$ ,  $B^b o$ , and  $B^b o\Delta 7$ . The musical staff below shows the corresponding chords in a single measure, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chords are represented by vertical lines with dots indicating the fretted notes.

There'll be more...study hard. The diminished color is a beautiful thing and we're not going to let it be difficult to understand.

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