AKChords

AKChords lets you set chord symbols in the style you prefer. It works in many music programs and in word processors. Letters, raised and lowered numbers and special characters are typed directly at several distances from the baseline. AKChords is the US keyboard version of AKAkkordbezeichnungen.

Requirements and installation

Windows, macOS or iPad and a program that supports ligatures (such as Word or Pages). Close the programs concerned, double-click the font file and click “Install”. In the font menu the font can be selected quickly by typing **AKC**.

Keyboard layout: standard US layout (Mac: “U.S.” or “ABC”; Windows: “US”). The font also works with **US International**, as none of the control keys is a dead key there.

How it works

AKChords is an OpenType font with ligatures: often two keys produce one character. The chord characters always stay on their own keys – the 7 is always typed with `7`. A control key typed in front of it decides whether the character sits on the baseline or in which level it is raised or lowered.

Level	3rd raised	2nd raised	1st raised	lowered (bass)
Control key	`=`	`]`	`[`	`;`
Example	C7	C7	C7	C7
Typed	`C=7`	`C]7`	`C[7`	`;7C`

The control keys for the raised levels lie close together at the top right (`=` above `[` `]`), those for the lowered level below them. Typed on its own, a control key shows its key symbol until the combination is complete.

Available characters (in addition to the chord letters)

Keys	`0` – `9`	`b`	`h`	`#`	`<`	`>`	`-`*	`+`	`(`	`)`	`0`	`/`	`J`
1st raised level	09	♭	♮	♯	<	>	−	+	(	)	ø	⁄	Δ

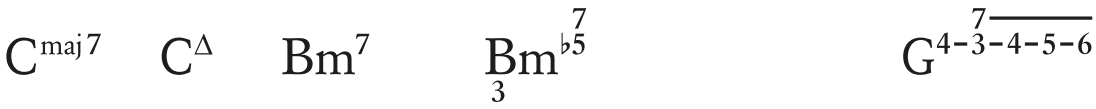
The same characters are available in the 2nd and 3rd raised levels (`]`, `=`) and lowered (`;`), except `0` and `/`, which exist in the 1st raised level only. `J` gives the triangle directly in the 1st raised level, `]J` in the 2nd. On the baseline, `o` gives the diminished circle. Lowered, all chord letters are available as well.

Words	`[m` maj	`[d` dim	`[s` sus	`[a` add	`]s` sus	`]a` add
Result	Cmaj	Cdim	Csus	Cadd	Csus	Cadd

* Instead of `-`, `l` (lower-case L) can always be used. Adding `L` several times draws a continuous line in the raised levels. Type the line completely before the characters above or below it.

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Examples



`C[m[7`	`CJ`	`Bm[7`	`;3Bm[b[5]7`	`G[4[-[3]7]-LLL[-[4[-[5[-[6`

In general, characters are always typed from bottom to top, then from left to right.

Characters spanning more than one level

With `{` and `}` (Shift-`[` and Shift-`]`), words and brackets span two or three levels.



`D{a[2]6`	`D{s[4]6`	`D{([6]9{)`	`E}([6]9=1=1})`

Keys: `{a` `{s` `{(` `{)` (two levels), `}(` `})` (three levels)

Two kinds of bass notation

The lowered characters exist in two versions: normally lowered with `;`, and including a dividing line with `:` (Shift-`;`). They must always be typed **before** the chord letter; kerning centers the chord letter above them as well as possible. With more than two lowered characters this is no longer possible without help: then type `\` before the chord letter to position it nicely. For more space, use `&` (large) and `$` (small).



`;CAm`	`;(;C;#;)\A`	`:C:#A`	`:(:C:#:)\A`

Key overview

Function	Key	Function	Key
3rd / 2nd / 1st raised level	`=` `]` `[`	natural sign	`h`
lowered / lowered with line	`;` `:`	diminished / half-diminished	`o` `0`
spanning two / three levels	`{` `}`	major 7th triangle	`J` `]J`
center chord letter above bass	`\`	continuous line	`L`
large / small space	`&` `$`	minus (also `l`)	`-`

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