

## Mixolydian chords - first steps

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Mixolydian chords are typically unaltered dominant chords that are made up of notes from the Mixolydian mode. The G-Mixolydian mode is made up of the white keys on the piano, also known as the natural notes. The parent major scale to G-Mixolydian is C major. Beginning on G, this mode is made up of: G-A-B-C-D-E-F pitches. If you begin with the G note and skip every other note in this sequence you will discover the various types of chords in this mode.

G-B-D-F = G7

G-B-D-F-A = G9

G-B-D-F-A-C = G11

G-B-D-F-A-C-E = G13

Some other unaltered dominant chords don't follow the "skip every other note" rule. These chords don't have a 3rd. This is what the "sus" in the chord name is referring to. It stands for "suspended" and is telling you that the 3rd has been suspended from the chord. The 4th occupies the spot where the 3rd was.

G-C-D-F = G7sus4

G-C-D-F-A = G9sus4

G-C-D-F-A-E = G13sus

When chords have 4 or more different pitches it is common to leave out one or more notes. Here are some examples of unaltered dominant chords with omitted notes (those in parenthesis).

(G)-B-(D)-F = G7

(G)-B-(D)-F-A = G9

(G)-B-(D)-F-(A)-C = G11

(G)-B-(D)-F-(A)-(C)-E = G13

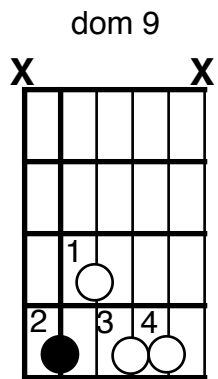
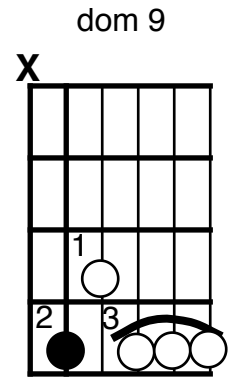
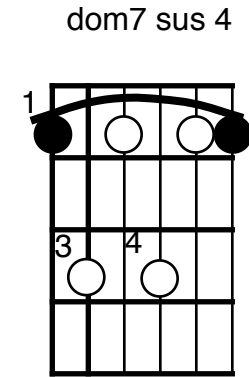
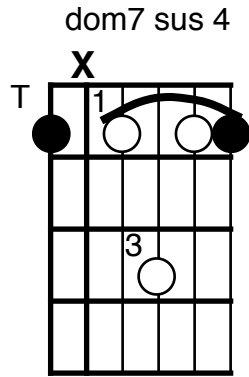
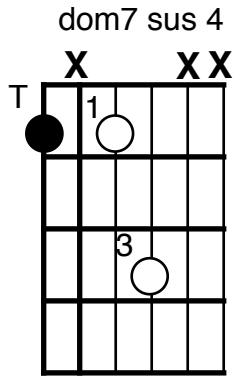
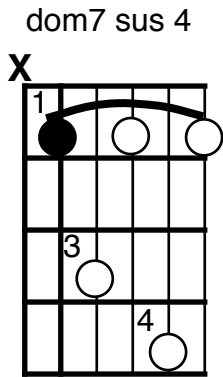
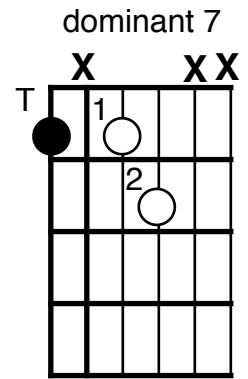
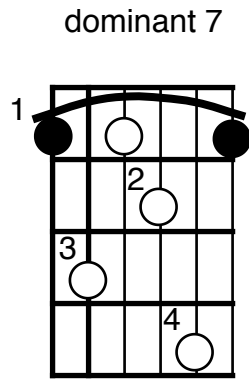
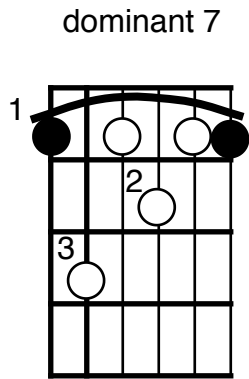
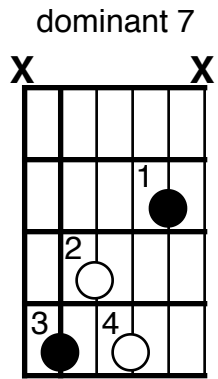
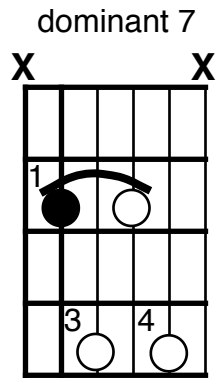
(G)-C-D(D)-F = G7sus4

(G)-C-(D)-F-A = G9sus4

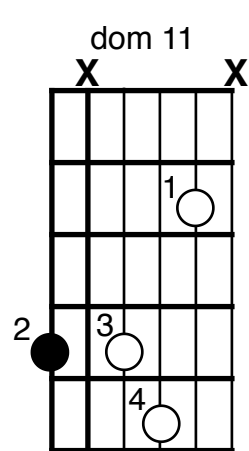
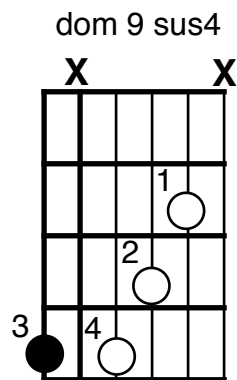
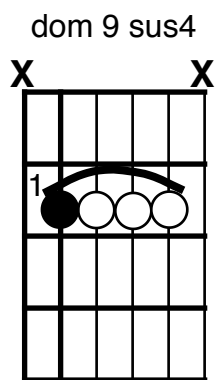
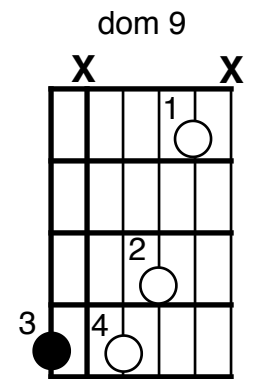
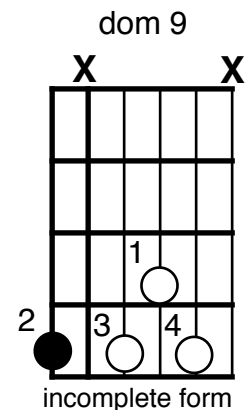
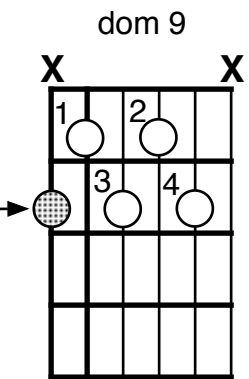
(G)-C-(D)-F-A-E = G13sus

It is also possible to omit the root note from a chord (the G note in these chords) if there is a bass player sounding it.

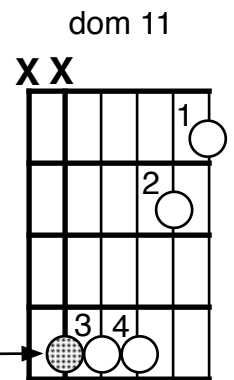
The notes in these chords are not normally played in this order. It is usually impossible or very difficult to play them this way and there are better sounding "voicings" (the order you play the notes in a chord from the lowest pitch to the highest). There are voicings that avoid dissonance and there are others that create it. Here is a short list of chords that are common examples of sounds that would go well with the Mixolydian mode. There are many other forms possible and if you want to dig deeper into this topic you'll find my book *Guitar Theory Illustrated* very helpful. If you are just looking for lots of versions of these chords, then explore the *Ultimate Guitar Chord Big Book*. Both of these books are available as digital files and as hard copy from [GuitarOutside.com](http://GuitarOutside.com).

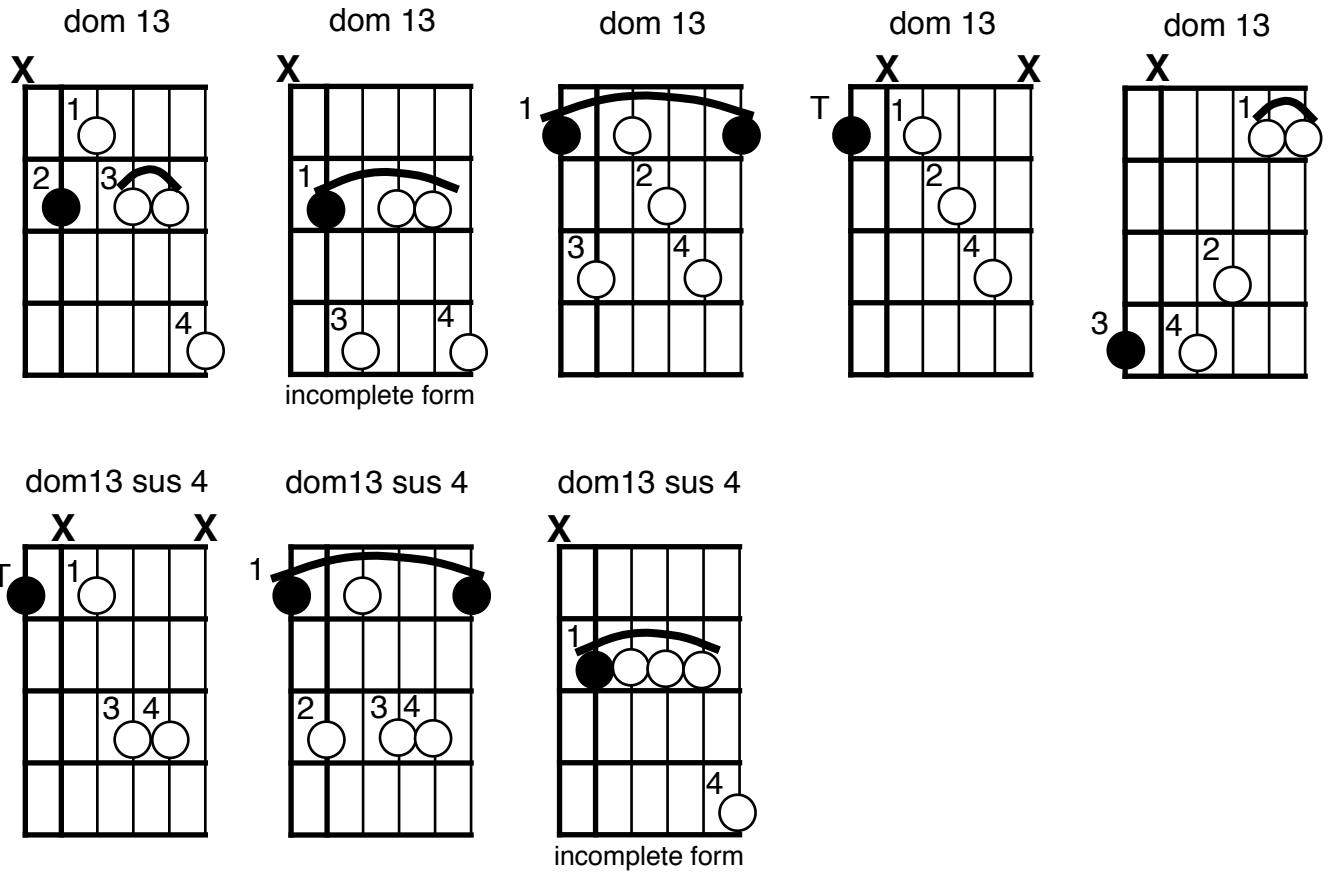


Don't play this note. It is where the D note would be located if using this chord form.



Don't play this note. It is where the D note would be located if using this chord form.





To make some of these easier, leave out the solid black dot note. Even though this is the chord root, it is something that can be tossed out.

These moveable forms can be aligned at any place on the fingerboard. To use these to play different types of G unaltered dominant chords, make sure the solid dot is at the 3rd from on string 6 (if the root or assumed root is on string 6) or the 10th fret on string 5 (if the root or assumed root is on string 5).