

## ALTERING TRIADS

Triads are boring. Instead of playing the I chord like this- you can add a note. For example, add a 6<sup>th</sup> or A as shown. (6 notes up from the root) It would be called a C with an *added 6<sup>th</sup>* interval or C6.

Musical notation showing two chords in 4/4 time. The first chord is a C major triad (C-E-G) with the label 'C' above it and 'I' below it. The second chord is a C6 chord (C-E-G-A) with the label 'C6' above it and 'I6' below it. The bass line is empty for both chords.

But it sounds scrunched up. So alter the voicing like this:

Musical notation showing two chords in 4/4 time. The first chord is a C major triad (C-E-G) with the label 'C' above it and 'I' below it. The second chord is an Am7 chord (A-C-E-G) with the label 'Am7' above it and 'vi7' below it. The bass line for the second chord shows the root note A in the bass and the 7th note G in the middle.

Notice we went from a simple triad to intervals. The root of the chord (A) is played in the bass and the 7<sup>th</sup> (G) is played in the middle with the left thumb. This altered the chord from a C6 to an Am7. This is a pattern you can use in the future for all 7ths. As a rule of THUMB play the 7<sup>th</sup> with the THUMB.

Below is a roadmap of the scale in the key of C. Here you can see that we went from a I chord to a vi chord, but because we added the 7<sup>th</sup>, the new chord is called a vi7 or Am7.

Musical notation showing the C major scale chords in 4/4 time. The chords are: C (I), Dm (ii), Em (iii), F (IV), G (V), Am (vi), B<sup>dim</sup> (vii<sup>dim</sup>), and C7 (I<sup>7</sup>). The bass line is empty for all chords.