# Amazing Augmented and Dazzling Diminished Chords

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## Why use Augmented and Diminished chords?

Adding an Augmented or Diminished chords is an excellent way to make your music more satisfying to play and more exciting for listeners to hear. These kinds of chords draw attention to your music-making are a great way to throw a little personality into your performance. They create novelty and tension for the ear.

### What makes a chord Augmented or Diminished?

Chords are made from notes that are stacked on top of each other, generally in thirds. The quality (sound, not worth) is defined by how far apart those notes are from each other. The distance is measured in half-steps, or semitones; you can easily see this on your fretboard or on a piano.

### **Diminished Chords**

Diminished chords are generally closed chords and are constructed with a stack of 3 *minor* thirds. They feature a lowered/flatted 5<sup>th</sup> and a lowered 7<sup>th</sup>.

Depending on which note you start with (inversion/rotation), each diminished chord can have up to four names and can resolve to different chord progressions. Because they can function like a 7<sup>th</sup> chord, it helps to think of them like a hinge between keys. They often resolve to a major or dominant chord that is built on one of the notes named in the diminished chord.

The good news? On the ukulele *diminished* is a SINGLE moveable shape, so you can play it anywhere on the fretboard.

# **Augmented Chords**

Augmented chords are almost always closed chords and are constructed with a stack of 2 major thirds, sometimes with an added 7<sup>th</sup>. **They feature a raised 5<sup>th</sup> and often have a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.** 

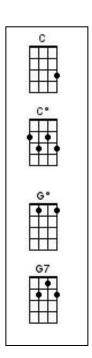
Augmented chords usually function as 7<sup>th</sup> chords (return to home chords), and most often resolve to a fifth below. Unfortunately, they are pretzel chords and rely on YOU knowing where to place the 5<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*BOTH augmented and diminished chords can be used as passing chords.\*\*\*

# Jambalaya

Goodbye **Joe**, me gotta (go), me oh <u>my</u> oh Me gotta <u>go</u> pole the pirogue down the **bayou** My **Yvonne**, the sweetest (one), me oh <u>my</u> oh, Son of a <u>gun</u>, we'll have big fun on the **bayou**.

Jambalaya and a crawfish (pie), and file <u>gumbo</u> 'Cause to<u>night</u> I'm gonna see my cher amio
Pick guitar, fill fruit (jar) and be <u>gay</u>-o
Son of a <u>gun</u>, we'll have big fun on the **bayou**.



### Peace Like a River

C Am F G7
I've got peace like a (river), I've got peace like a river,
C Am Dm G7
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
C Am F G7

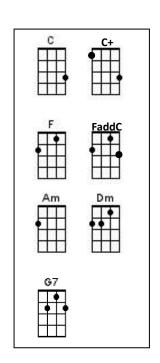
I've got peace like a (river), I've got peace like a river,

C Am F G7 C

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2: I've got joy like a fountain

3: I've got love like an ocean



# Raining In My Heart





# Till There Was You

