

THE AUGMENTED MINOR MAJOR SEVENTH

The augmented minor major seventh (my title) is a rarely-found chord, so you shouldn't lose much sleep over it. I don't think you will come across a lot, but who knows - it may suddenly catch on.

The chord consists of a minor 3rd, an augmented (sharpened) 5th and a major seventh:

$Cm^{\Delta(+5)}$ or $Cm^{\Delta(+5)}$ $Cm^{\Delta 9(+5)}$ $Cm^{\Delta 11(+5)}$ $Cm^{\Delta 11(+5)add B\flat}$
 or $\frac{B\flat}{Cm^{\Delta(+5)}}$

It can be written either the first way showing the raised fifth, or the second way, using just flats, depending upon the context.

Notes that can be added to it are the 9th and 11th and the minor 7th (best an octave up from the major 7th in the chord). The last named of these can also be written as a superimposition as shown - the top 3 notes being a Bb major triad. Notes can also be doubled, for example an Ab and B could be added to the 11th in the penultimate chord.

The four-note basic chord may arise as a result of the fifth note of the chord rising a semitone from a Cm^{Δ} chord to form a new chord. However, it can be also be found in its own right as a chord built on the tonic of the harmonic minor scale and on the IVth and bVIth steps of the Middle-Eastern scale (*see separate tutorial*). This gives it some legitimacy as a proper chord.

There are several scales which can be played against it. The last one is not much practical use though, as it implies that it is a major chord, whereas in fact it is very much a minor or diminished chord.



Cm Δ (+5)

C harmonic minor scale



Cm Δ (+5)

C diminished scale



Cm Δ (+5)

C minor Middle-Eastern scale
(same as G Middle-Eastern scale)



Cm Δ (+5)

C harmonic minor (b2) scale



Cm Δ (+5)

E Middle-Eastern scale