

In this monologue, I will be ranking musical chords from worst to best. 'Ah, but if used properly ALL chords can sound good...' True. BUT, I'm talking about how nice chords sound on their own, played over and over again. Really attacking your instrument and playing the things at full volume helps to bring out the true nature of chords, too. But never do that if you're in a mental health setting like I was, as it will get taken the wrong way. If you've been sectioned on the other hand, you will get some very serious questions. Yep, if you've been hospitalised you can still bring you instrument of choice with you! Not all bad. And the countless free biscuits? Even better.

Major minor chord/E7#9 (A kind of major minor chord).

Major chords are happy, minor chords are sad. Thus, major-minor chords are bitter sweet? Actually Jimi Hendrix made them sound funky in his 'Purple Haze', whereas if normal people play them over and over again, it's the musical equivalent of going blind. That's how fun it is, and that's the genius of Jimi Hendrix. A chord with many moods? Make up your mind! To conclude, really he should have used the chord in 'Hey Joe' as well - a song about killing someone. Luckily that track wasn't in a major key, because THAT would be a misuse of harmony.

Dream chord (found on Wikipedia, as are the others. Personally, I've never heard of it).

I guess this one sounds dreamy. But then again, how many kinds of dreams are there? A dream for every occasion, right? So every chord sounds dreamy. You know what kind of dream the dream chords bring to my mind? That one where your teeth fall out.

Farben chord

Sounds like somebody dying. Farben means 'colour'. Colourful death? It gives whole new meaning to the rainbows seen on children's TV, for example. Really the Teletubbies should be for ages 15 and over. :S

Augmented 11th chord

Not atonal like some of the others, but if a chord doesn't belong to the natural minor scale, just be suspicious, that's all. Strangely, augmented chords have a major third in them - a happy note. How did such a note get involved with notes from the harmonic minor scale? Clues in the name - HARMonic. Stay away from it.

Augmented chord

Ah, slightly better than the prior. But not really, it just has less notes in. In the right hands, this chord CAN sound really cool and mystical, but in the wrong hands? It sounds as mystical as getting poked in the eye.

Elekta chord

To be honest, ranking all these dissonant chords is not so easy. To me they all sound

like a cat walking over a piano. I'm being 100% genuine when I say the 'dream' chord could have been inspired by such a cat, as most of the notes are right next to each other. Could have originally been played with a single paw. I know that's a cliched thing to say, but it's cliched because it really is true.

The Northern Lights chord

As this chord has so many notes in it, really it could only be played by two cats. Or maybe one very large one doing a stretch. Do I REALLY prefer this chord over the preceding one? No. They sound more or less the same. (But maybe not to cats! - Who knows??)

Tristan chord

Again, cats.

Minor 6th chord

Ooh, we've left atonality behind and we've told the harmonic minor scale and the melodic minor scale to go screw themselves. Is everything ok, now? No! Oh, what's the point of trying to make sense of any of this?

Diminished chord

Wow, these chords are relatively nice sounding, yet they're 'chords of the devil'. Shows you what I think of the Hendrix chord, right? I read that Hendrix didn't actually invent the Hendrix chord. Disappointing news for some, but certainly a relief for me.

Diminished 7th chord

A little bit more evil sounding. Not found in the natural minor scale like the prior is, but the other two scales mentioned clearly have their moments. There's a lot to the scales, too. Here are the seven modes of the melodic minor scale: The melodic minor scale, Dorian b2, Lydian augmented, Lydian dominant, Mixolydian b6, Aeolian b5, Super locrian. Very technical sounding. It's just a shame the way they all sound the same. And the the use of the word 'super'? Very misleading.

Dominant egg chord. I mean dominant t 7th

Very funky. And I don't mean funky like the Hendrix chord that also sounds like ass, I mean funky in such a way it couldn't be used as a deranged torture tactic. But never end a song with a dominant chord, or that would be a mild form of torture. Like seeing someone else get tortured. Not quite as bad.

Mystic chord

Wow, an atonal chord I like. It sounds mystical, too. And not mystical in a boring every day fashion like the farben chord is colourful, I mean it actually sounds mystical.

Minor 7th chord

Very sad, which makes sense, if I was a minor at the age of seven, I'd be sad, too. Sometimes music theory is very easy to grasp. Mostly it's nonsense, though.

Seventh suspended 4th chord

Neither happy or sad as it has no 3rd. Which makes sense, if I was a suspended person at the age of seven, I wouldn't be happy or sad. Only joking, that was more gibberish for you. Stupid music theory.

E minor 11th chord

The only people who can't play this on guitar are those with no hands or feet. And even then, you could probably play this one by nodding your head up and down on the strings if you really don't have limbs. Yep, all you have to do is play every string without fretting any notes.

Major 7th chord

The saddest sounding major chord... Which makes sense - If I was a major at the age of seven, I'd be sad too. I wouldn't want to go war, I'd much rather play Donkey Kong. I certainly wouldn't want to LEAD an army at that age. Just how?? Even at 34, I'd still be mystified.

Major 9th chord

Turns out majors at the age of nine are no happier. I'd much rather play the PS1, famous for being even better than Donkey Kong!

Major 6th chord

Strangely, this chord is very chilled. A chilled major at the age of six??? I'd like to see that. Another case of music theory being nonsensical. No actually, sometimes people become kings very early, so why not generals? Maybe that's what the chord name alludes to.

Major 6/9th chord

How can you be six and nine at the same time?

Major 7#11th chord

I was sharp at the age of 11. I wasn't seven when I was 11 though, so I can't really relate to this chord. It sounds good, though. It could well be my third favourite chord of all time, but let's face facts - I'm not talking this monologue super seriously. Joe Satriani and Steve Vai love this one, though.

Power chords

Where would we all be without power chords, right? Rock and metal wouldn't even exist. Sure you can play single notes that sound heavy if you seriously downtune and add distortion, but do we want to live in a world where you are FORCED to buy 8 string guitars? I'm very happy with 6!

Minor add 9th chord

Ah the best chord. This one is so mournful. I'd like to give it a hug.

So, what have we learnt? Not much, as quite literally no music theory in the traditional sense was ever utilised. (Apart from the modes that I copied and pasted). Not only that, I added some of my own personal theories that I'm fairly sure will be seriously controversial, and not only THAT, I didn't even really bother to put the chords in the right order. As explained, the first ones basically all sound naff and the same to me. The fact I heard MIDI files of the chords on Wikipedia that sound 30 years old didn't help things. Lesson of the day - I'm glad I never put too much effort into being a musician. It would have been a mistake. And... bye!