

A7 DROP 2 VOICINGS (top 4 Strings)

These A 7 chords are formally known as **4 way Drop 2** voicings, going from Root Position through the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Inversions. This sort of language can scare small children and the elderly alike, so let's demystify shall we. **Warning ! there's a degree of assumed knowledge.**

An A 7 chord (or any Dominant 7th chord) is a 4 note structure (that's **the 4 way** part). It consists of the **1 (Root or Tonic)** the **3rd**, the **5th** and the **b7th** (flat 7th). The **1,3,5** and **b7** are referred to as chord tones and all Dominant chords contain this particular sequence.

Each chord is given a number. This is where the **Drop 2** comes in. We can order the 4 chord tones in specific orders - **1 3 5 b7** - **3 5 b7 1** - **5 b7 1 3** - **b7 1 3 5**. These groupings go from low (left side) to high (right side). The lowest note of each grouping = **4** , the highest note = **1**.

If the 4 note group starts with the **1** it's a **Root Position** Chord. If it starts with the **3rd** it's a **1st Inversion**, if it starts with the **5th** it's a **2nd Inversion**, if it starts with the **b7th** it's a **3rd Inversion**.

Here they are shown vertically, as you can see, the 2nd highest note of each group = **2**. The **2** is simply dropped down an octave to become the lowest note of each possible grouping.

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	Root Position	Drop 2 2nd Inversion	1st Inversion	Drop 2 3rd Inversion	2nd Inversion	Drop 2 Root Position	3rd Inversion	Drop 2 1st Inversion
	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→

Drop 2 i.e. taken down an octave.

1	b7
2	5
3	3
4	1

↘

1	b7
2	5
3	3
4	1

1	1
2	b7
3	5
4	3

↘

1	1
2	b7
3	5
4	3

1	3
2	1
3	b7
4	5

↘

1	3
2	1
3	b7
4	5

1	5
2	3
3	1
4	b7

↘

1	5
2	3
3	1
4	b7

FRET 1 3 5 7 9 12

Try playing a blues using these voicings. They create great melodic potential for chord solos or just an interesting backing or to get nice movement over a single static chord. Have fun !