

ELEVEN SECRETS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

Let's talk about the very basics of barbershop music.....

ELEVEN CHORDS! Why should you want to know about this?

Because you **LOVE** your music, and you want to know as much as possible about it. And because by knowing these things, you'll be able to perform your music better - with more understanding.

Your **MUSIC** is telling you more than just what notes to sing!!

Our chords are divided into **FAMILIES**, and there are 3 Families:
MAJOR -- MINOR -- SYMMETRICAL (64\$ word)

MAJOR FAMILY

MAJOR family has six members - they are all **VERY BRIGHT!**

PAPA - Major triad (1-3-5)

MAMA - Barbershop 7th (1-3-5-7b)

4 Kids: Major 6th (1-3-5-6)

Major 7th (1-3-5-7)

Major 9TH (1-3-5-9)

NINTH (nickname) (whole name is 1-3-5-7b-9 but
it's too long to call him that)

MINOR FAMILY

MINOR family has three members (no **PAPA!**)

MAMA - minor triad (1-3b-5) (she's sad - no **PAPA**)

2 Kids: minor 6th (1-3b-5-6)

minor 7th (1-3b-5-7b)

SYMMETRICAL FAMILY

SYM family has two only (orphan twins!):

DIMinished (1-3b-5b-7bb) (minor 3rd apart)

AUGmented (1-3-5#) (major 3rd apart)

These 11 are the **only** chords used in our BBS harmony. Okay - which ones are the **STRONG CHORDS** - our meat and potatoes??

MAJOR TRIAD - BARBERSHOP 7TH - NINTH ...you want these in most of the important places! All the others are used for seasoning. If we get too much of them in our arrangement, it starts to sound like some other kind of music and not BBS. If you get just the right amount of seasoning, it spices up our music and makes it **YUMMY!**

ELEVEN SECRETS OF BARBERSHOP

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MAJOR FAMILY

PAPA

MAMA

Ma - jor tri - ad - - , Bar - ber - shop sev - en - - th. Close Ma - ma - -

KID #1

KID #2

KID #3

Ma - jor sixth (7 8 6) Ma - jor sev - en - - th. Ma - jor ninth.

PROBLEM CHILD #4 - NON-CONFORMIST (5 notes!)

I am called BBS Ninth,

one three nine, one five (nine)
five se - ven nine, nine - - - nine.
nine, three (nine)

LEAVE ONE OUT!

Always wants to go home to MAMA!

nine - - - th, Ma - - ma, Ma - ma, Ma - - ma,

