Identifying Basic Jazz Chord Symbols

Over the years composers have used a variety of ways to notate chord symbols. Regardless of the notation style, all chord symbols must indicate the quality of the chord (i.e. whether a chord is major, minor, dominant, half-diminished or diminished). Listed below are examples of the most common chord notation styles for the five basic seventh chords.

**Major Seventh Chord Symbols:** Chord Tones 1, 3, 5, 7

![Major Seventh Chord Symbols](image)

**Minor Seventh Chord Symbols:** Chord Tones 1, b3, 5, b7

![Minor Seventh Chord Symbols](image)  
*Note: Lower case letters may be used as well when notating minor chords.*

**Dominant Seventh Chord Symbols:** Chord Tones 1, 3, 5, b7

![Dominant Seventh Chord Symbols](image)

**Half-Diminished Seventh Chord Symbols:** Chord Tones 1, b3, b5, b7

![Half-Diminished Seventh Chord Symbols](image)

**Diminished Seventh Chord Symbols:** Chord Tones 1, b3, b5, bb7

![Diminished Seventh Chord Symbols](image)