

## The Magic of Diminished Passing Chords

Hello friends,

Welcome back to Swift Guitar Lessons for another rhythm guitar and composition hack. The sound of the dim7 (aka full-diminished) chord provides a mega-dose of flavor and tension into a composition. When used correctly, these dissonant harmonies can elevate the emotional stakes for your listeners, help guide the progression through passing chords, or setup a satisfying resolve. For today's session, we'll learn to incorporate the dim7 in the key of A, as an exotic detour to a minor chord change. Let's get started!

### Intro Demonstration

In this practice routine, let's combine diatonic chords (those built from the notes in the scale) with full-diminished passing chords. This choral arrangement has been embellished using a jazzy triplet rhythm and walking bassline.

Chord diagrams: A, A#dim7, Bm7, Cdim7, C#m7, F#7

Measures 1-3: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Bass line: 0 2 2 (0) 1 2 (0) | 2 4 3 2 4 2 (0) | 4 6 4 2 3 0

Free time

Chord diagrams: Bm7, E, A, Cdim7, A/E

Measures 4-6: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Bass line: 2 4 3 2 2 0 1 2 | 0 2 2 3 2 4 3 2 2 3 2 4 | 4 2 4 5 6 4 5 6 7 7

### 4 Note Chords in the Key of A + Dim7 Passing Chords

Below we have each of the chords in the key of A major combined with diminished 7 passing chords that take us to our minor 7th shapes.

Chords: Amaj7, Bbdim7, Bm7, Cdim7, C#m7, Dmaj7, E7, Fdim7, F#m7, G#°, Amaj7

4-note chord shapes (fret numbers):

- Amaj7: 0 2 2 0
- Bbdim7: 2 0 2 1
- Bm7: 2 3 4 2
- Cdim7: 4 2 4 3
- C#m7: 4 5 6 4
- Dmaj7: 5 7 7 5
- E7: 7 9 7 9
- Fdim7: 7 9 9 8
- F#m7: 9 10 9 9
- G#°: 11 12 11 11
- Amaj7: 12 14 13 12