

Instructions for loading and using the Arial Chord Suffix Library

This Arial Chord Suffix Library is a modified version of James Darcy Argue's Jazz Chord Library which is included in Finale as of version 27.2. A big thank you to James for his incredible work in collaboration with MakeMusic to achieve what he did for that library of suffixes.

There is new code in version 27.2 that makes it possible to type James' chords (and by extension, mine) in a logical way and still get the right suffix. That means that this Arial Chord Suffix Library requires version 27.2 (or later) in order to work properly!

Here's how to install the Library and some of my recommendations for other settings.

Delete the existing suffixes:

If you're loading this into a new template or an empty file, I would recommend deleting all of the chord suffixes in your Chord Suffix Selection Dialogue box. If you're loading this into a file that has chords typed into the music already, you might want to skip this step, otherwise you'll lose all your chord symbols in the score.

- Type any chord into the document
- Right-click that chord
- Choose Edit Chord Definition
- At the bottom next to the Suffix ID press the "Select" button
- Select the first suffix, scroll down and shift-select the last suffix - all should be selected.
- Press the "Delete" button at the bottom of the window
- Close all of the windows

Load the Arial Chord Suffix Library:

- Go to File>Load Library
- Find and select the file called "Arial Chord Suffix Library.lib"
- Press the "Open" button
- The new suffixes should now appear in your Chord Suffix Selection Dialogue box

Change the following settings in the Document Options:

(These are my recommended settings to best match the suffixes with the chord roots and chord alterations.)

- Open up the Document Options - Document>Document Options... or Cmd-Opt-A for Mac, (Ctrl-Alt-A for Windows)
- Go to the Fonts section and make the following changes
 - Change "Chord: Symbol" to Arial Narrow 16 plain
 - Change "Chord: Suffix*" to Arial Narrow 14 plain
 - Change "Chord: Alteration" to Finale Maestro 19 plain
- Go to the Chords Section and make the following changes:
 - Chord Alteration Baseline Adjustment values:
 - Sharps: 0.12153 inches (35 EVPUs)
 - Flats: 0.09028 inches (26 EVPUs)
 - Naturals: 0.08333 inches (24 EVPUs)
 - Scale All Chords By: This value should be 100%, but the chords will look ok anywhere from 90% to 105%. Outside of that range the spacing gets too distorted.

Typing Chord Suffixes:

- Typing these chord suffixes in your score should work as normal. As a reminder - for the suffixes with stacks of alterations, you always need to type the alterations from the top down, so type B7(#11#5) and not B7(#5#11). As a rule, the stacked suffixes in this library always have the higher number on top.
- Opt-J on a Mac will give you the Δ symbol (I think it's either Alt+916 or Alt+30 for Windows)
- The letter "O" will give you the diminished symbol
- % (Shift-5) will give you the ø symbol