



Music Musings No.3: Making Chords

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Making Chords (Harmonies) with notes of the C Scale:

In Music Musings No. 2 we made melodies using the 7 notes of the C scale. Now lets create 7 CHORDS using these same notes. Play each note of the C SCALE again -- but this time, build a CHORD triad on each note. It's easy! Just choose a note (C, for example), and then add a note a 3rd higher (skip a note), and one more note another 3rd higher. The result? A lovely C Chord, made up of the notes C - E - and G. The next chord up in the scale is a D minor chord (D - F - A), the next is E minor (E - G - B), and so on (more on the difference between major & minor chords later).

1. C Chord

2. D minor Chord

3. E minor Chord

4. F Chord

5. G Chord

6. A minor Chord

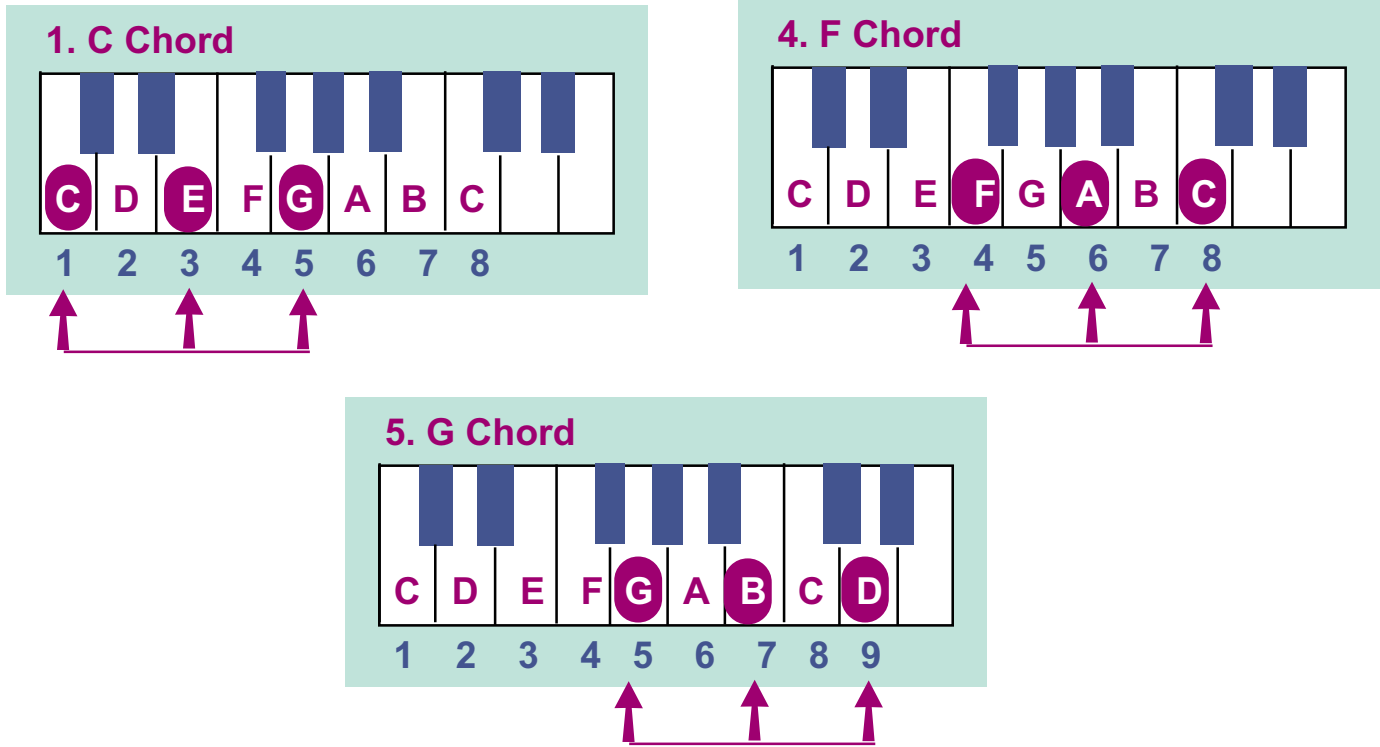
7. B diminished Chord

1. C Chord

Playing song instantly using just 3 chords !

You'd be surprised how many songs you can play using only 3 chords! If you know how to make chords on the 1st, 4th and 5th notes of a scale, then you can use these chords (also called the 1, 4 and 5 chords) to start playing songs right away.

In the key of C, these would be the C, F and G chords. Let's review how to play them:



Let's play some songs!

Sing or play the melodies of the songs below. When you see a chord name above a word of the song, play that chord (press and hold it down every 4 beats or so) until you see a different chord name. Each time you see a chord name, play that chord while singing the songs. It's easier than you think!

(Hint: This is playing "guitar-style" piano, where you strum or boom-chuck an accompaniment while you sing along.)

(Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)

CHORD NAMES -->	C	F	C	G	C	G	C
CHORD No. ----->	1	4	1	5	1	5	1
	Twinkle	Twinkle	Little	Star;	How	I	wonder
	C	G	C	G	C	G	C
	Up	above	the	world	so	high;	Like
	C	F	C	G	C	G	C
	Twinkle	Twinkle	Little	Star;	How	I	wonder
	C	G	C	G	C	G	C

continued . . .

Let's play some more songs using C, F and G chords!!

(Amazing Grace)

C F C G
 Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a soul like me.
 C F C G C
 I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

(The Lion Sleeps Tonight)

C F C G
 In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight.
 C F C G
 In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight.
 C F C G
 Wimoweh, Wimoweh, Wimoweh, a Wimoweh, Wimoweh, a Wimoweh, etc.

(Louie Louie)

C F G F C F G F
 Louie Louie, Oh . . . we gotta go now . . . Yeah, yeah, yeah yeah yeah.

(La Bamba chorus)

C F G F C F G F
 La La Bamba . . . La la Bamba etc.

(This Land is Your Land)

F C G C
 This land is your land, this land is my land, from California to the New York Islands.
 F C G C
 From the Redwood forests to the gulf stream waters, this land is made for you and me.

(Macarena)

C
 Da da da da da da da da da Macarena; Da da da da da da da da da Macarena
 (still a C chord!!) C G C
 Da da da da da da da da da Macarena -- HEY! Macarena!