

# Chord Shapes: 1. Basic Triads and Scales

(Foundational Knowledge. Apply to all 12 keys)

JimO

1. Start with a major scale.

Musical notation for a major scale in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the notes C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass clef staff contains the notes C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

2. Build Major and Minor 3rds on the First, Third and Fifth tones above each scale-tone.

These are the **Diatonic major, minor and diminished triads/chords for the key.**

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Musical notation showing diatonic triads for a major key. The treble clef staff contains the notes C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass clef staff contains the notes C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The triads are labeled as follows: 1 Imaj, 2 iim, 3 iiim, 4 IVmaj, 5 Vmaj, 6 vim, 7 viidim, 1 IMaj.

3. EXERCISES: Play the following with **broken chords** in 2 time signatures.

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Musical notation for broken chords in 6/8 time. The treble clef staff contains the notes C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass clef staff contains the notes C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

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Musical notation for broken chords in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the notes C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass clef staff contains the notes C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

4. These shapes are called **Arpeggios**.

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Musical notation for arpeggios in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the notes C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass clef staff contains the notes C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

5. NEW CONCEPT: Each scale-tone has it's own CHORD-SCALE. They have different NAMES.

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Musical notation for scales 1-4. Each scale is shown in a four-measure system. The first measure of each system contains a whole note chord symbol. The subsequent three measures show the scale ascending in eighth notes. The bass line is empty.

1=IONIAN	(Major)	2=DORIAN	(Minor nat.6)
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Musical notation for scales 3-4. Each scale is shown in a four-measure system. The first measure of each system contains a whole note chord symbol. The subsequent three measures show the scale ascending in eighth notes. The bass line is empty.

3=PHRYGIAN	(Minor b2)	4=LYDIAN	(Major#4)
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Musical notation for scales 5-6. Each scale is shown in a four-measure system. The first measure of each system contains a whole note chord symbol. The subsequent three measures show the scale ascending in eighth notes. The bass line is empty.

5=MIXOLYDIAN	(Majorb7)	6=AEOLIAN	(Nat.minor)*
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Musical notation for scales 7-8. Each scale is shown in a four-measure system. The first measure of each system contains a whole note chord symbol. The subsequent three measures show the scale ascending in eighth notes. The bass line is empty.

7=LOCRIAN	(Minorb2andb5)	8/1=IONIAN	(Major)
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6. These scales contain **CHORD-TONES (Passive)** and **NON-CHORD TONES (Active)**.  
 Chord-tones provide "resting points" for melody, while Non-Chord ones create tension and contrast.

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Musical notation showing chord tones 1 through 7. The notes are placed on a treble clef staff. The bass line is empty.

1	3	5	2	4	6	7
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