

Chord Shapes 1: Basic Scales and Triads:(C)

(Foundational Knowledge. Apply to all 12 keys)

JimO

1. Start with a C major scale. The basic "Major" scale in Western Music uses this note grouping.

Root/Tonic WholeStep
Root - 2 - Whole - Half - Whole - Whole - Whole Half

2 - 2 - 2 - 1

2. Build Major and Minor 3rds on each note of the scale to create 3-Part **Tertial Chords**. These are the **Diatonic major, minor and diminished triads/chords** for the key.

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1 2m 3m 4 5 6m 7dim 1

Imaj iim iiim IVmaj Vmaj vim viidim IMaj

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

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1/8

NAME _____

CHORDS: _____

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Name: _____

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

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Name: _____ etc.

5. **NEW CONCEPT: Each chord has it's own CHORD-SCALE. They all have different NAMES.**

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1=IONIAN (Major) 2=DORIAN (Minor nat.6)

(Play through each scale. Notice how well they "fit" the chords.)

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3=PHRYGIAN (Minor b2) 4=LYDIAN (Major#4)

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5=MIXOLYDIAN (Majorb7) 6=AEOLIAN (Nat.minor)*

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7=LOCRIAN (Minorb2andb5) 8/1=IONIAN (Major)

6. These scales contain **CHORD-TONES (Passive)** and **NON-CHORD TONES (Active)**.

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Musical notation for exercise 6. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter). Fingerings: 1, 3, 5, 2, 4, 6, 7. Bass line has rests.

7. **Chord-Tones** often begin melodies or stop at "rest points". See below.

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Musical notation for exercise 7. Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter). Labels: CT, CT, CT, CT, CT, CT, CT, CT. Bass line has rests.

8. **Non-Chord-Tones** create tensions and energy to melodies. See Below.

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Musical notation for exercise 8. Treble clef, 3/4 time. Chords: C, Am, F, C/E. Notes: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter). Labels: CT, NCT, CT, NCT, CT, NCT, CT, CT. Bass line shows chord voicings.

9. The general category here is **CHORD-SCALE-AGREEMENT**. When harmonizing melodies we try to find chords that "fit" the melody. Chord-Tones totally "agree", for the most part. The Non-Chord-Tones will normally "lead" to Chord-Tones by creating tensions like the ones shown above. **Now, try to fit some chords to this melody.**

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Musical notation for exercise 9. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter). Bass line has rests.

* Natural minor can also be called "relative" minor or simply, Aeolian mode.