

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

(Foundational Knowledge. Apply to all 12 keys)

JimO

1. Start with a **G** 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 - 2 - 1 - 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

I maj ii m iii m IV maj V maj vi m vii dim I Maj

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

9

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

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Musical notation for exercise 6, showing a scale in G major. The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#. The chord tones are labeled as 1, 3, 5, 2, 4, 6, 7. The bass line is empty.

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

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Musical notation for exercise 7, showing a scale in G major. The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#. The chord tones are labeled as CT. The bass line is empty.

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

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Musical notation for exercise 8, showing a scale in G major. The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#. The chord tones are labeled as CT and NCT. The chords are G, Em, C, G/B. The bass line shows the chords.

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, showing a melody in G major. The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#. The bass line is empty.

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