

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

(Foundational Knowledge. Apply to all 12 keys)

JimO

1. Start with a Eb 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 - 1 - 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)
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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-flat major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass clef is empty. The notes are: G-flat (1), A-flat (3), B-flat (5), C (2), D-flat (4), E-flat (6), F (7). The notes are grouped into pairs: (1, 3), (5, 2), (4, 6), (7, 7).

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-flat major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass clef is empty. The notes are: G-flat (CT), A-flat (CT), B-flat (CT), C (CT), D-flat (CT), E-flat (CT), F (CT). The notes are grouped into pairs: (CT, CT), (CT, CT), (CT, CT), (CT, CT).

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-flat major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass clef is empty. The notes are: G-flat (CT), A-flat (NCT), B-flat (CT), C (NCT), D-flat (CT), E-flat (NCT), F (CT). The notes are grouped into pairs: (CT, NCT), (CT, NCT), (CT, NCT), (CT, NCT). Chords Eb, Cm, Ab, and Eb/G are indicated above the staff.

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-flat major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass clef is empty. The notes are: G-flat, A-flat, B-flat, C, D-flat, E-flat, F, G-flat.

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