

Playing by "Ear": Learning Page 1

(Diatonic chords, Primary Chords. Shapes and Voice-Leading)

JimO

1. Start with a major scale. Each tone gets a sequential Arabic number.

The second lyric row gives you the fingering for the scale.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8/1
1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

2. This Arabic numbering is sometimes referred to as the "Nashville System."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8/1
5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

3. Building 3-Note Structures in 3rds from each scale tone gives the "**DIATONIC TRIADS**" in the key

Study carefully and listen to the chords at the piano. Learn the names of the chords..

Cmaj Dm Em Fmaj Gmaj Am Bdim Cmaj
I IIIm IIIIm IV V VIIm VIIo I
1(Major) 2(minor) 3(minor) 4(Major) 5(Major) 6(minor) 7(Dim.) 1(Major)

4. Notice that MAJOR chords are found at the 1st, 4th and 5th scale degrees. These are the PRIMARY CHORDS in the key.

5. Raising the lower tone of the ROOT-POSITION triads yields INVERSIONS. Shown below.

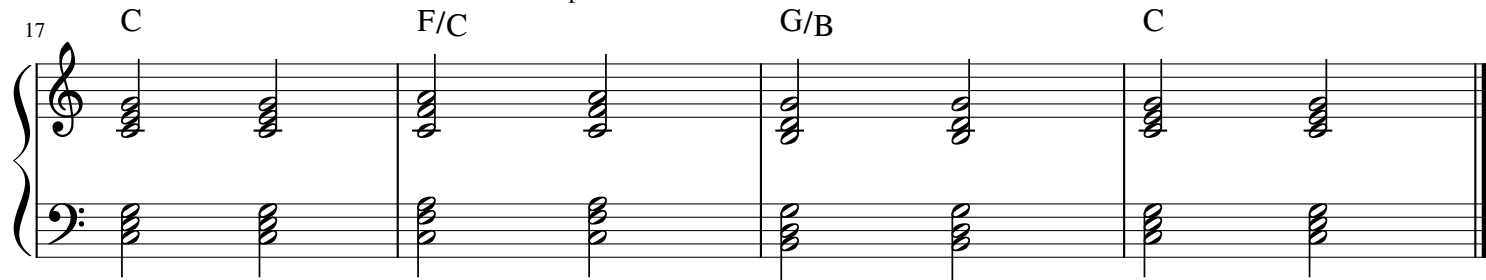
C C/E C/G C
Root position 1st Inversion 2nd Inversion Root position

F F/A F/C F G G/B G/D G
Root 1st 2nd Root Root 1st 2nd Root

6. Now let's "Voice-Lead" these chord shapes.

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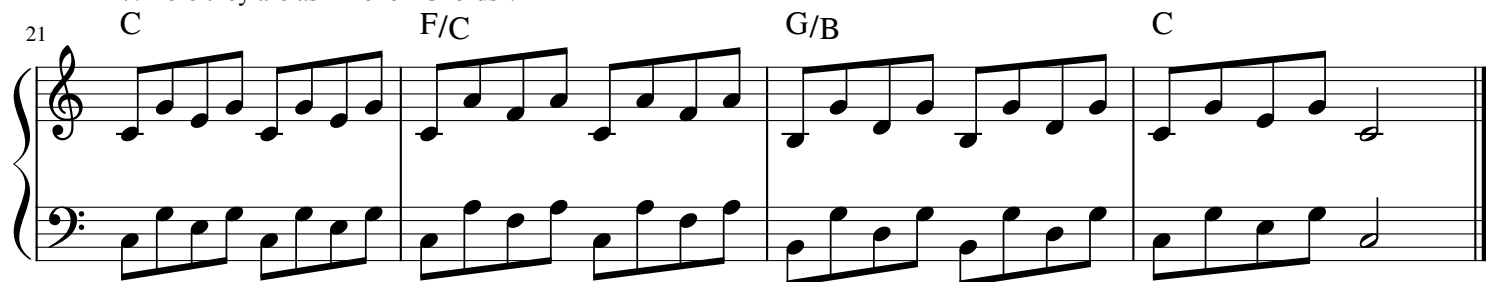
C F/C G/B C



7. Here they are as "Broken-Chords".

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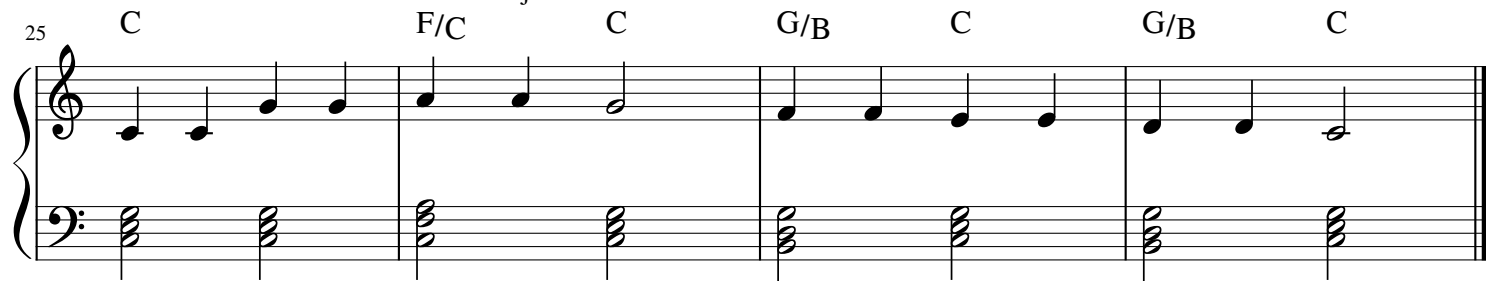
C F/C G/B C



8. Twinkle Twinkle Exercise in C-Major.

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C F/C C G/B C G/B C



9. Playing a simple song with basic piano accompaniment in half-notes and eighth-notes.

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C F/C C G/B C G/B

