

Voicings 1: Learning Page(Bb)

Chords are always "voiced."

Root Position and **Inversions** are the foundation.

In this LP the Root and Inversion positions will be displayed.

JimO

1. Here is a C major Triad. Triads are 3-part chords built with major or minor thirds.* Short-hand musician language for these is One-Three-Five, or 1-3-5.

C.Major(Triad)

Root 1

Third 3

Fifth 5

2. A chord of 3 tones yields 3 structures. We refer to them as Root, 1st and 2nd inversions. They are built in 3rds and invert by "raising" the lower tone an octave.

5

Root.Position

1st.Inversion

2nd.Inversion

Root.Position

3. Try them out. Play, see and listen to each inversion. First, hands separate.

9

1 3 5

3 5 1

5 1 3

1 3 5

4. Here is a "broken chord" shape of the inversions.

13

1 3 5 3

3 5 1 5

5 1 3 1

1 3 5 3

5. Here is another broken chord version. This one has a classical feeling.

17

1 5 3 5

3 1 5 1

5 3 1 3

1 5 3 5

6. Here are the additional TRIADS for the key of C major.
These are in Root position followed by their inversions. Again, play them and listen.

21

Musical notation for the Dm triad (IIIm.chord) in C major. It shows the root position and two inversions (1st and 2nd) across four measures. The first measure shows the root position with labels 'Dm' and 'IIIm.chord'. The second measure is labeled 'Root'. The third measure is labeled '1st' and the fourth '2nd'. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb).

25

Musical notation for the Em triad (IIIIm.chord) in C major. It shows the root position and two inversions (1st and 2nd) across four measures. The first measure shows the root position with labels 'Em' and 'IIIIm.chord'. The second measure is labeled 'Root'. The third measure is labeled '1st' and the fourth '2nd'. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb).

29

Musical notation for the Fmajor triad (IV.major) in C major. It shows the root position and two inversions (1st and 2nd) across four measures. The first measure shows the root position with labels 'Fmajor' and 'IV.major'. The second measure is labeled 'Root'. The third measure is labeled '1st' and the fourth '2nd'. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb).

33

Musical notation for the Gmajor triad (V.major) in C major. It shows the root position and two inversions (1st and 2nd) across four measures. The first measure shows the root position with labels 'Gmajor' and 'V.major'. The second measure is labeled 'Root'. The third measure is labeled '1st' and the fourth '2nd'. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb).

37

Musical notation for the Am triad (VIIIm.chord) in C major. It shows the root position and two inversions (1st and 2nd) across four measures. The first measure shows the root position with labels 'Am' and 'VIIIm.chord'. The second measure is labeled 'Root'. The third measure is labeled '1st' and the fourth '2nd'. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb).

41

Bdim
VII dim. chord

Root

1st

2nd

6. Triads in C major. Summary Staff.

45

Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm Am7b5 Bb

Inversion Exercises

49

7. Ascending scale with broken chords. Root Position.

Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm Adim Bb

53

8. Ascending scale in 1st Inversion.

Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm Adim Bb

57

9. Ascending scale in 2nd Inversion.

Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm Adim Bb

10. 3 position triad "Climb".

61

Bb Cm Dm

64

3 3 3 3 3 3

E_b F G_m

67

3 3 3 3

Adim B_b

NOTE: Getting a little fancy now.
We're just getting started.

11. Shift to 3/4 time and try this.

71

3 3 3 3 3 3

B_b C_m D_m E_b F G_m Adim B_b Adim B_b

12. Now try both hands in unison.

75

B_b C_m D_m E_b F G_m Adim B_b Adim B_b

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

JimO's Diatonic Circle-of-Fifths

5

79

B \flat E \flat Am7 \flat 5 Dm Gm Cm F B \flat

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb) and the time signature is 4/4. The exercise is numbered 79. Above the staves, the chords are labeled: B \flat , E \flat , Am7 \flat 5, Dm, Gm, Cm, F, and B \flat . The bass line shows the root movement of the chords: B \flat (2nd line), Eb (3rd space), Am7 \flat 5 (3rd space), Dm (4th space), Gm (5th space), Cm (1st line), F (1st space), and B \flat (2nd line). The treble staff shows triads in various inversions: B \flat (root position), Eb (root position), Am7 \flat 5 (1st inversion), Dm (1st inversion), Gm (1st inversion), Cm (1st inversion), F (1st inversion), and B \flat (1st inversion).

NOTE: The "Circle-of-Fifths" exercise shows how triads fit together from the standpoint of smooth "Voice-Leading." The basic principle of Voice-Leading is to do your best to keep "Common tones in the same voice." In this exercise the common tones are easy to see starting from the middle C on the treble clef. In this approach the Inversions follow the voice-leading.