

PIANO LESSON ONE PRACTICE PDF

HOW TO MAKE A CHORD

A chord uses the 1st, 3rd & 5th notes from the root (doh note.)

To change a chord make the letter you want to play number 1 and count up the white keys to find numbers 3 & 5.

Play all 3 notes at the same time as you play the number 1 note in your left hand and you are playing the chord!

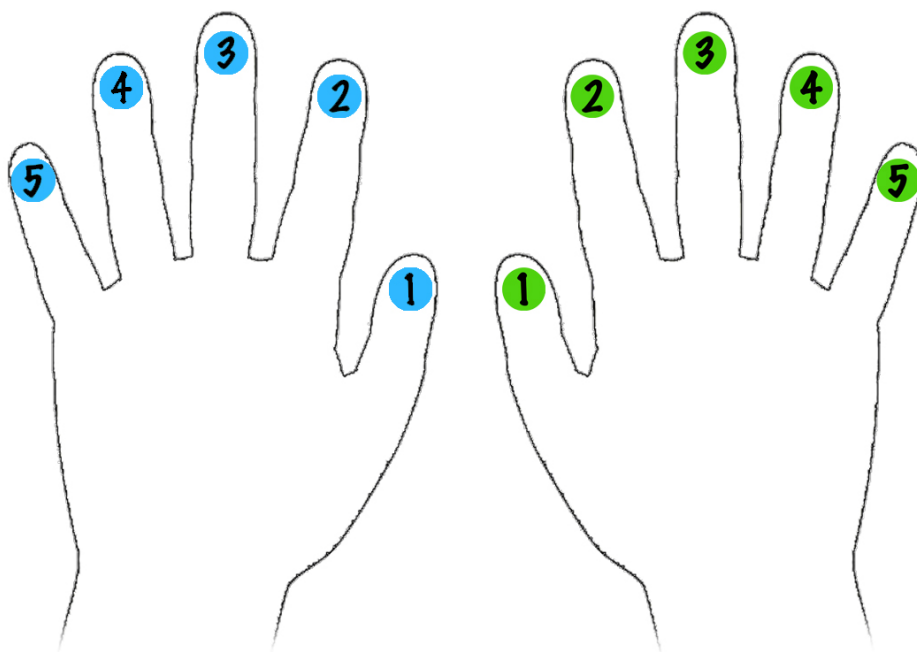
We have 2 types of chords in music:

Major chords sound happy

Minor chords sound sad

For the songs we are going to learn in this lesson we need 4 chords. Try making the letter of chord number 1 and then find the 3 & 5 for each to play their chords.

You can choose which fingers you want to use to play these chords. We tend to use either fingers 1 - 3 - 5 or 1 - 2 - 4

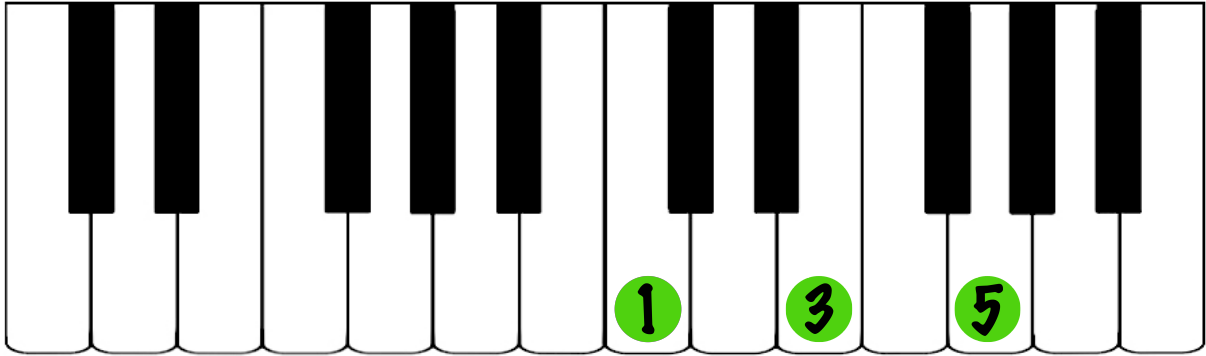


Those chords are C - F - G & A minor

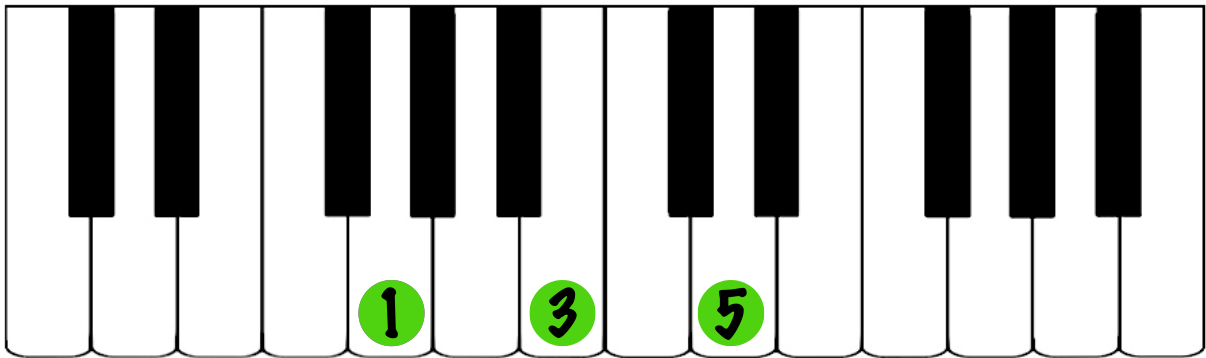
For all these chords you will be playing only white notes.

LET'S FIND THOSE CHORDS

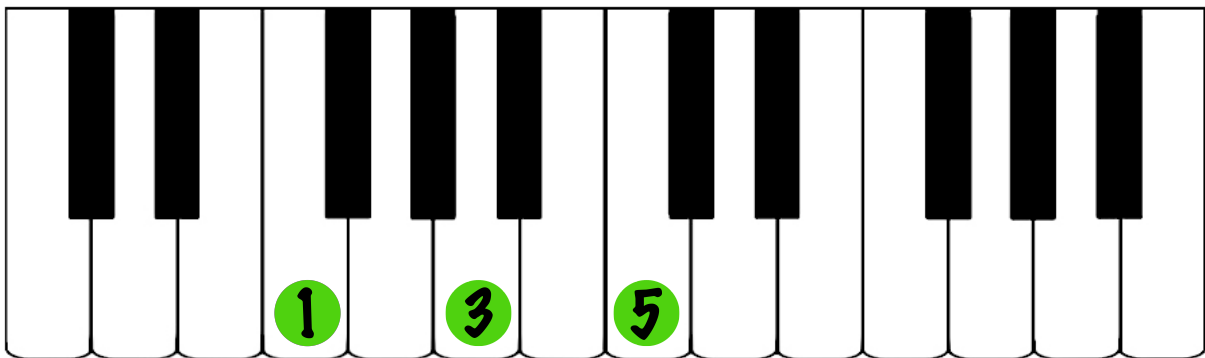
For you C major chord you will be playing the notes C - E - G



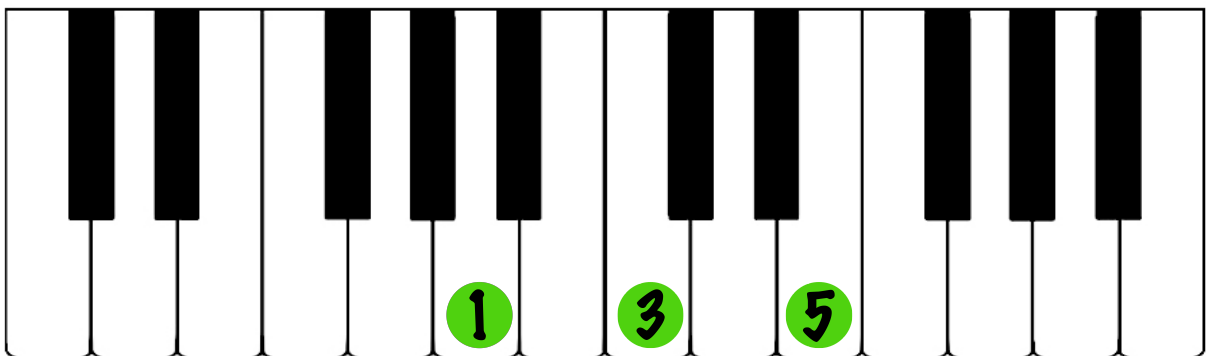
For you G major chord you will be playing the notes G - B - D



For you F major chord you will be playing the notes F - A - C



For you A minor chord you will be playing the notes A - C - E





REORDERING THE CHORDS

We can play the notes of our chords in any order. So long as the notes are the 1st. 3rd & 5th notes they will always play the chord.

The 3 main ways of ordering our chords are

1 - 3 - 5 | 3 - 5 - 1 | 5 - 1 - 3

in the case of C major that would be:

C - E - G | E - G - C | G - C - E

We reorder our chords to make the movement between them easier.

Try changing the order of each one of your chords and see which notes are the same in each chord.

For this lesson we will be playing our C chord in the order

5 - 1 - 3 = G - C - E

Our G & A minor chords in the order

1 - 3 - 5 = G - B - D & A - C - E

And our F chord in the order

3 - 5 - 1 = A - C - F

By doing your chords this way you will not have to move your hands for any of the songs in this lesson!

Try moving between the different chords and get used to playing each one.

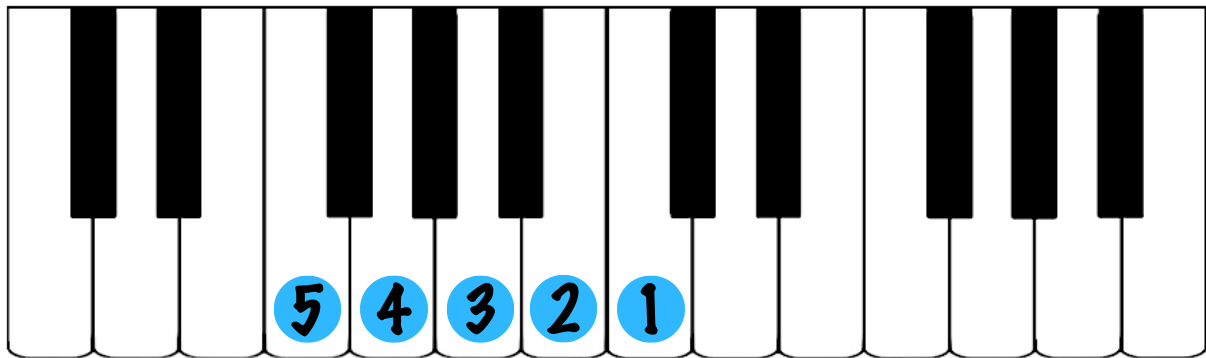
Try playing them in the order C - G - Am - F

Make sure you are playing all 3 notes at the same time and as you get used to playing each chord try bringing in the left hand:

THE LEFT HAND

Our left hand needs to play the number 1 note for each chord.
or in other words the letter name of each chord.

If you place your left hand thumb (1) on a C and then each finger
on each note coming down from C you will be able to play
every left hand note without moving your hand:



For your C chord you play your thumb (1)
For the G chord play your wedding ring finger (4)
For the A chord play your middle finger (3)
And for the F chord play your pinky (5)

Make sure you play your left hand note at the same time as
you play the chord in your right hand.

It doesn't matter what order you are
playing the chord in your right hand - your
left hand note always plays the number 1.

Now let's start learning some songs!



SOMEONE YOU LOVED

The order of our chords in a song is called the chord sequence.

For Someone You Loved we play the chords

C - G - Am - F

Counting 4 on each chord.

Try playing each chord and holding for 4 before moving up to play each chord 4 times.

Once you can each chord 4 times you can try splitting the top and bottom of your chord by playing the top 2 notes followed by the bottom note.

(Always play your left hand on the 1st beat of each chord.)

ALL THE SMALL THINGS

This is a nice easy one to get you playing around these chords.

During the verse the order is:

C - G - F - G

And in the chorus we play:

C - G - F - C

Remember to try ordering the F in different ways to make it easier to move between the chords.

LET IT BE

This one has some changes. Be careful to keep your hands close, moving as little as possible for each chord. Remember to try different orders to make changing easier.

In the verse we play:

C - G - Am - F | C - G - F - C

And in the chorus we play:

Am - G - F - C | C - G - F - C

As you get comfortable with the chords try playing each one twice before moving to the next. You can also add the little run in with the left hand or try splitting top and bottom.

HALLELUJAH

Our final song for this lesson is also the trickiest to follow. Take it slow and make sure you are playing the right chord at the right time. Remember to try the little runs in the left hand as you get more comfortable with the chords.

For the verse we play:

C - Am - C - Am - F - G - C - G
C - F - G - Am - F - G - C

For the chorus we play:

Am - C - Am - C - G