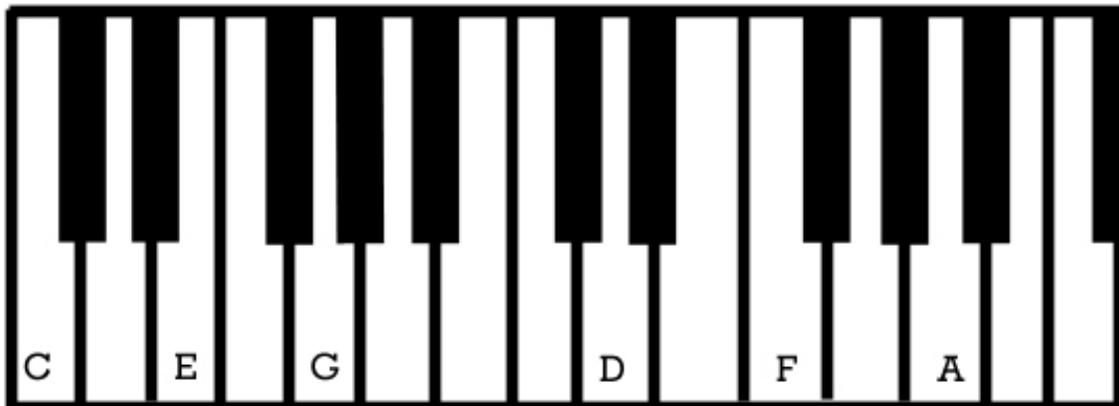


*Excerpt from Modern Worship Piano Lessons Book from
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Introduction to Chords



C Major Chord

D Minor Chord

A **chord** is two or more notes played at the same time.

A **triad** is a basic three-note chord.

In this book we will focus on the chords that are built over a simple major scale. There are two kinds: **Major and Minor**.

In general, a major chord sounds happy, while a minor chord sounds dark or sad.

You will be building chords and learning about their qualities in the following pages.

Building Chords

It is important that you understand how to build and play basic chords on piano.

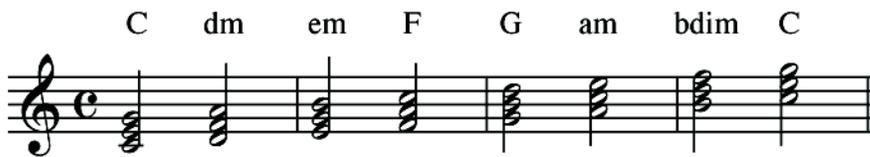
To build a simple chord:

1. Pick a starting note
2. Add the **third** note above your starting note
3. Add the **fifth** note above your starting note

Example: **C** D **E** F **G**

Now you have the C Chord: C E G

This is an example of the chords in the key of C. You can see that the root note is the name of the chord and the notes are stacked on top creating a triad or three-note chord.



Chord Families “Keys”

When you add chords above each note of the major scale, you get the 7 chords in that particular key. Adding triads above each of the major scale tones is called *harmonizing the major scale*.

The following three things always happen when harmonizing a major scale:

1. The first chord is a **major chord** and tells the name of the key.
2. I, IV, and V are major chords; ii, iii and vi are minor chords as indicated by the lowercase letters.
3. The vii* chord is a diminished chord and is not used much in popular music.

It is easy to see how these rules come to life when you look at these 3 chord families. Roman numerals are commonly used in the study of music theory.

This is the KEY of C major (no sharps or flats)

C	dm	em	F	G	am	bdim
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

This is the KEY of G Major (1 sharp)

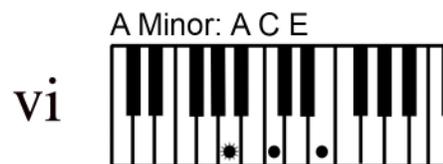
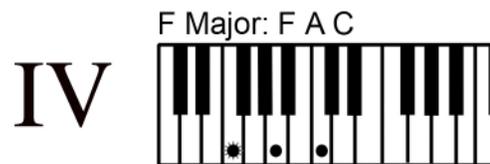
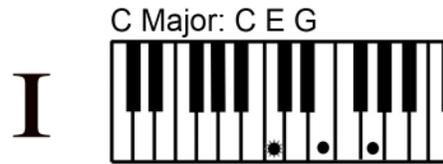
G	am	b	C	D	em	f# ^{dim}
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii*

This is the KEY of D Major (2 sharps)

D	em	f#m	G	A	bm	c# ^{dim}
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii*

Piano Chords

Key of C Major



Use instead of the
vii diminished chord