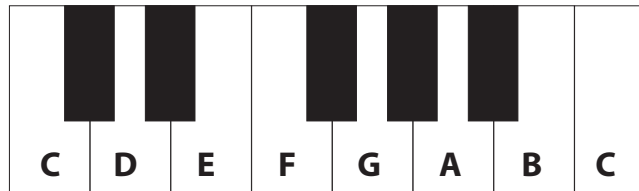
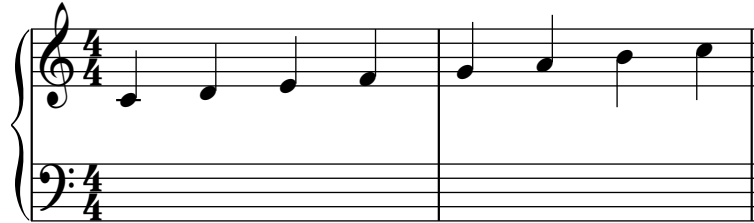


THE C MAJOR SCALE



Fingers: 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5

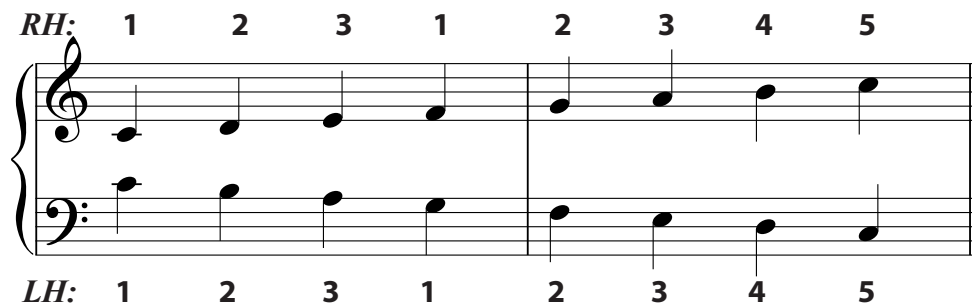


The **C Major Scale** is the white keys played from C to C. The major scale is the scale you may know as “Do - Re - Mi - Fa - Sol - La - Ti - Do.” The major scale is important because written music on the staff relates directly to it, and also shows us how notes may deviate from it. We will use the scale more extensively later in the book.

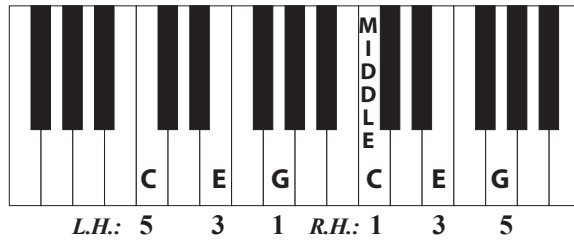
Play the C major scale, using the fingering shown above. When you get to the F note, tuck your #1 finger (thumb) behind your #2 and #3 fingers to make a smooth transition for placing your #1 on F. Continue the scale by placing 2, 3, 4, and 5 on G, A, B and C.

The C Major Scale - Contrary Motion

Practice the C major scale with the right hand, then the left hand, and then both hands together. Notice that the fingering number pattern is the same. After you’ve learned the scale as written, try going in the opposite direction. Both hands start on middle C.



THE C CHORD



The C chord is a “triad,” a three note chord. The C chords shown here are in “root” position, meaning the note “C” is the lowest note of the triad. Root position triads are easy to see because they are placed on the staff in a “space-space-space,” or “line-line-line” configuration. Root position triads are usually played with the fingering shown above.

The C chord is built on the first note of the C scale, so it is called the “I” (one) chord of the key of C. The chords built on the notes of the major scale are numbered with Roman numerals.

The note that the chord is named for (C) is called the “root.” The middle note (E) is the third note of the scale starting on the root, and is called the “third.” The top note of the triad (G) is the fifth note of the scale starting on the root, and is called the “fifth.” The individual notes of the chords are identified with Greek numerals (1, 3, 5).

C Chord Etude

C CHORD INVERSIONS

The diagram illustrates three positions of the C major triad (C-E-G):

- Root Position:** Notes C, E, G from bottom to top. RH: 1, 3, 5; LH: 5, 3, 1.
- First Inversion:** Notes E, G, C from bottom to top. RH: 1, 2, 5; LH: 5, 3, 1.
- Second Inversion:** Notes G, C, E from bottom to top. RH: 1, 3, 5; LH: 5, 2, 1.

Chords aren't always played in root position. The order of the notes may change, but the chord is still the same chord. The notes of a C chord are c-e-g, but any combination of those three notes will still constitute a C chord.

The C chord in **root position** is c-e-g from bottom to top. Root position triads are written “line-line-line,” or “space-space-space” on the staff.

The C chord in **first inversion** is e-g-c from bottom to top. The root is now at the top of the triad. First inversion triads are written “line-line-space” or “space-space-line” from bottom to top.

The C chord in **second inversion** is g-c-e from bottom to top. The root is now in the middle of the triad. Second inversion triads are written “line-space-space” or “space-line-line” from bottom to top.

C Chord Inversion Etude

The etude consists of two systems of four measures each. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes, and the left hand plays a bass line of quarter notes. The chord changes are indicated by the notes in the left hand.

System 1:

- Measure 1: Root Position (C-E-G). RH: 1 3 5 3; LH: 1 3 5.
- Measure 2: First Inversion (E-G-C). RH: 1 2 5 2; LH: 1 3 5.
- Measure 3: Second Inversion (G-C-E). RH: 1 3 5 3; LH: 1 2 5.
- Measure 4: Root Position (C-E-G). RH: 1 2 5 2; LH: 1 3 5.

System 2:

- Measure 5: Root Position (C-E-G). RH: 5 3 1 3; LH: 5 3 1 3.
- Measure 6: First Inversion (E-G-C). RH: 5 2 1 3; LH: 5 3 1 3.
- Measure 7: Second Inversion (G-C-E). RH: 5 3 1 2; LH: 5 2 1 2.
- Measure 8: Root Position (C-E-G). RH: 5 3 1 5; LH: 5 3 1 5.

THE PRIMARY TRIADS IN C: I, IV & V

C F G C

I ii iii IV V vi vii I

The primary triads are the triads built on the first, fourth and fifth notes of the scale. In the key of C, the C chord (c-e-g) is the “I” chord, the F (f-a-c) chord is the “IV” chord and the G chord (g-b-d) is the “V” chord. This chord combination (I-IV-V) is the most common chord progression used in music.

Play this etude many times to get comfortable with the chords. The right hand plays the primary triads in root position and the left hand plays the root note of the chords.

Root Position Primary Triads Etude

C F G C

5 3 1 5 3 1 5 3 1 5 3 1

5 2 1

The next etude has the C chord in root position, the F chord in second inversion, and the G chord in first inversion. Practice each hand individually, then together. Follow the fingering.

Primary Triad Inversions Etude

C F G C

5 3 1 5 3 1 5 2 1 5 3 1

1 3 5 1 2 5 1 2 3 1 3 5

The songs on the next page use the triad inversions in the left hand and the C major 5 finger position in the right hand.