

Chords Study Guide

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Know all major, minor, and diminished chords from the 5 keys we are studying. C, F, B \flat , G, & D.
 Notice that the pattern is the same for all major keys. You don't have to memorize the chords.
 Just know the pattern and compare everything to C major. Keep in mind the key signature changes.

C D m E m F G A m B $^{\circ}$ C
 I ii iii IV V vi vii $^{\circ}$ I

3 F G m A m B \flat C D m E $^{\circ}$ F
 I ii iii IV V vi vii $^{\circ}$ I

5 B \flat C m D m E \flat F G m A $^{\circ}$ B \flat
 I ii iii IV V vi vii $^{\circ}$ I

7 G A m B m C D E m F \sharp° G
 I ii iii IV V vi vii $^{\circ}$ I

9 D E m F \sharp m G A B m C \sharp° D
 I ii iii IV V vi vii $^{\circ}$ I

Know the 1st inversions of 3 of the keys: C, F, & G. Notice that all of the Roman numerals have 6's by them. This is the case for all 1st inversions. You don't need to know why. Just know it.

11 C/E D m/F E m/G F/A G/B A m/C B $^{\circ}$ /D C/E
 I6 ii6 iii6 IV6 V6 vi6 vii $^{\circ}$ 6 - I6

13 F/A G m/B \flat A m/C B \flat /D C/E D m/F E $^{\circ}$ /G F/A
 I6 ii6 iii6 IV6 V6 vi6 vii $^{\circ}$ 6 I6

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G/B A m/C B m/D C/E D/F# E m/G F#°/A G/B

I6 ii6 iii6 IV6 V6 vi6 vii^o6 I6

Know all of the 2nd inversions for 3 keys: C, F, & G. Notice that all of the Roman Numerals have 6/4 by them. You don't need to know why. Just know it.

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C/G D m/A E m/B F/C G/D A m/E B°/F C/G

I6/4 ii6/4 iii6/4 IV6/4 V6/4 vi6/4 vii^o6/4 I6/4

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F/C G m/D A m/E B^b/F C/G D m/A E^o/B^b F/C

I6/4 ii6/4 iii6/4 IV6/4 V6/4 vi6/4 vii^o6/4 I6/4

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G/D A m/E B m/F# C/G D/A E m/B F#°/C G/D

I6/4 ii6/4 iii6/4 IV6/4 V6/4 vi6/4 vii^o6/4 I6/4

How to make a major chord

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Minor 3rd on top (m3)

Major 3rd on bottom (M3)

How to make a minor chord

Major 3rd on top (M3)

Minor 3rd on bottom (m3)

How to make a diminished chord

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Minor 3rd on top (m3)

Minor 3rd on bottom (m3)

How to make an augmented chord

Major 3rd on top (M3)

Major 3rd on bottom (M3)

You can also remember that a M3 is equal to 4 half steps and a m3 is equal to 3 half steps.

In order to invert a chord, you must take the **ONLY** the bottom note, up an octave.

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C major in root position C major in first inversion C major in second inversion

aka "TRIAD POSITION"

This works the same for every chord you will ever see.

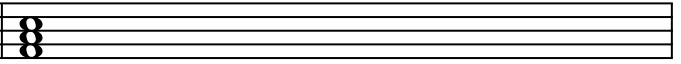
Triad position: All notes are either line-line-line or space-space-space.

30 This chord is not in triad position.



That means that the chord above is F major in 1st inversion. Or F/A

So in order to figure out what chord it is, I must take the top note down an octave so that it will be space-space-space.



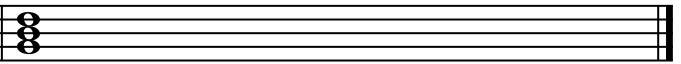
Then I can figure out that it is an F major chord.
minor 3rd (m3) on top
Major 3rd (M3) on bottom

32 This chord is not in triad position.



That means that the chord above is G major in 2nd inversion. Or G/B

So in order to figure out what chord it is, I must take the bottom note up an octave so that it will be line-line-line.



Then I can figure out that it is a G major chord.
minor 3rd (m3) on top
Major 3rd (M3) on bottom

The name of any chord is determined by the bottom note when and only when it is in TRIAD Position

The numerator is the name of the chord. The denominator is the lowest note of the chord if it is in an inversion.

G/B = G major chord with a B as the lowest note = G major in first inversion

If the chord is in root position, you don't call it G/G. You just call it G.