

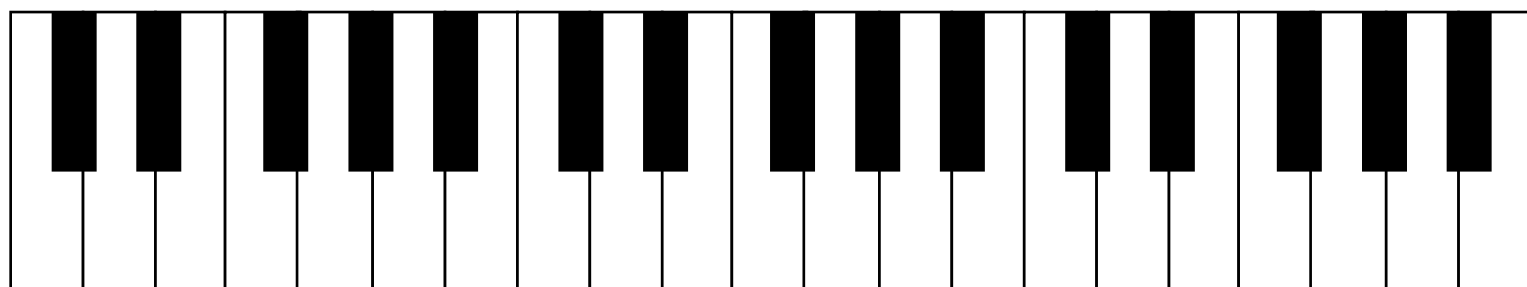
with NEW Chord Rulers

Piano Chords

and Song Accompaniment

The Easy Way

Mark Andrew Hansen B.E. Grad. Dip. Ed.



Have you ever wanted to play Piano?

Have you ever wanted to play piano but couldn't find time for traditional lessons?

Have you felt frustrated by slow and tedious lessons?

Do you want to be able to play your favourite songs and even make up your own?

Many people who've had traditional piano lessons give up and don't benefit from the highly technical way they were taught. I too, grew bored of learning scales and key signatures, and of the same old pieces that had been taught for the last 100 years. I longed to break free of the notes on the page and express myself.

As soon as I left these old-style lessons, I discovered new ways to teach myself to play piano fluently and expressively, until it became an extension of me. Eventually I became a musical mentor to my students, helping them become musicians and artists, at one with their instrument.

Welcome to My New Way of Learning

Welcome to this new and innovative method of learning piano. You will soon be able to play the piano in ways that you thought only experts could master after years of training. You will also find this learning process, fast and fun.

Remember when it was fun to learn new things? At the heart of this breakthrough approach is an original invention called the Piano Chord Ruler. It is colourful, fun to use and avoids years of standard lessons, replacing them with a few hours of enjoyable learning. You can now benefit from all I have learnt, and free the trapped pianist inside of you. Read on and be playful with it. Life is so much less than perfect without music.

kind regards,

Mark Hansen (B.E., Grad. Dip. Ed.)

September 2009

What's in the Book?



Over 7 hours of lessons that would normally cost you more than \$200.



3 colourful **Piano Chord Rulers** enabling you to play any chord instantly.



The fastest way to memorise chords. (pages 5, 6 & 12)



3 simple ways to play chords that will have you playing songs in less than an hour. (pages 13-17)



Design chords that make you sound like an expert! (pages 7-10)



Achieve the advantage of using your right and left hands independently. (pages 8, 13-14)



All the main chords that are used in pop, rock, jazz & blues are shown and explained. (pages 3, 11, 18-20, 22-23)



Learn the boogie bass used in rock, blues and jazz. (page 21)



No traditional knowledge of music notation required.

To purchase the book online please go to :-

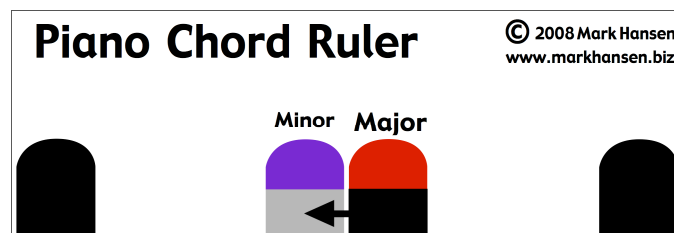
www.MarkHansen.biz/Piano

What you will learn in this book

By the end of this book you will be able to find all the main chords on a piano or keyboard, and be able to play them in different arrangements or voicings. You will also know several ways to play chords to accompany you and others on many popular songs, and you will do all this without needing to read music notation.

What you will find in this book

This book contains lessons on how to find and play, all the important chords on a piano or keyboard. It uses a new learning tool called a Piano Chord Ruler to help you find and remember chords. There are several of these Rulers at the back of the book which you are required to print onto stiff paper or cardboard and cut out for use during these lessons.



Listening Examples

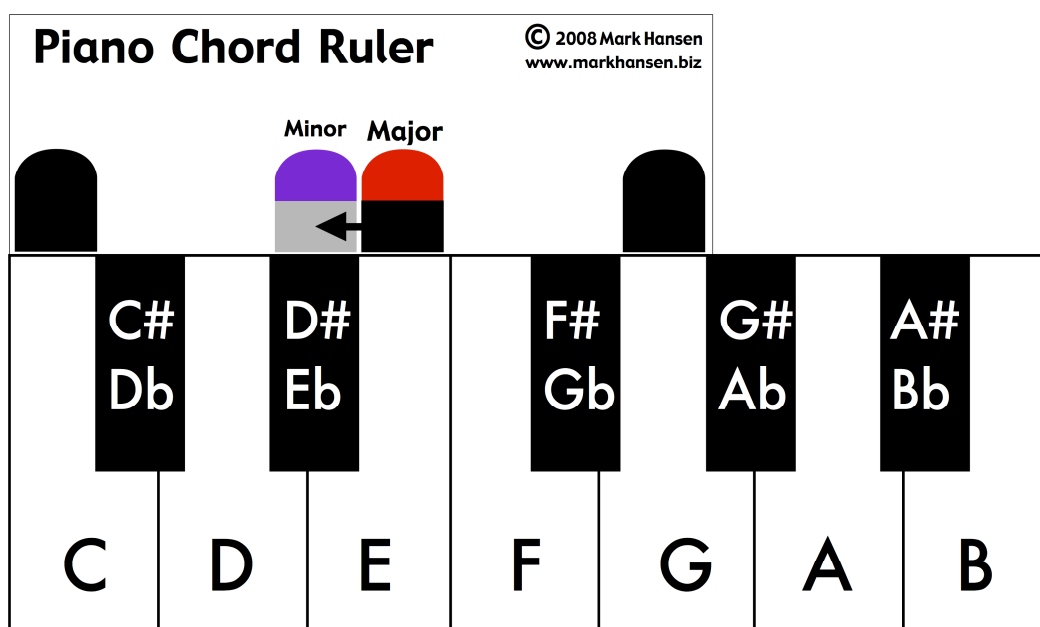
There are also internet links to example files which you can download and listen to at various points in the book.

<http://www.markhansen.biz/Lessons/Examples.html>

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Using the Chord Ruler to Find Chords

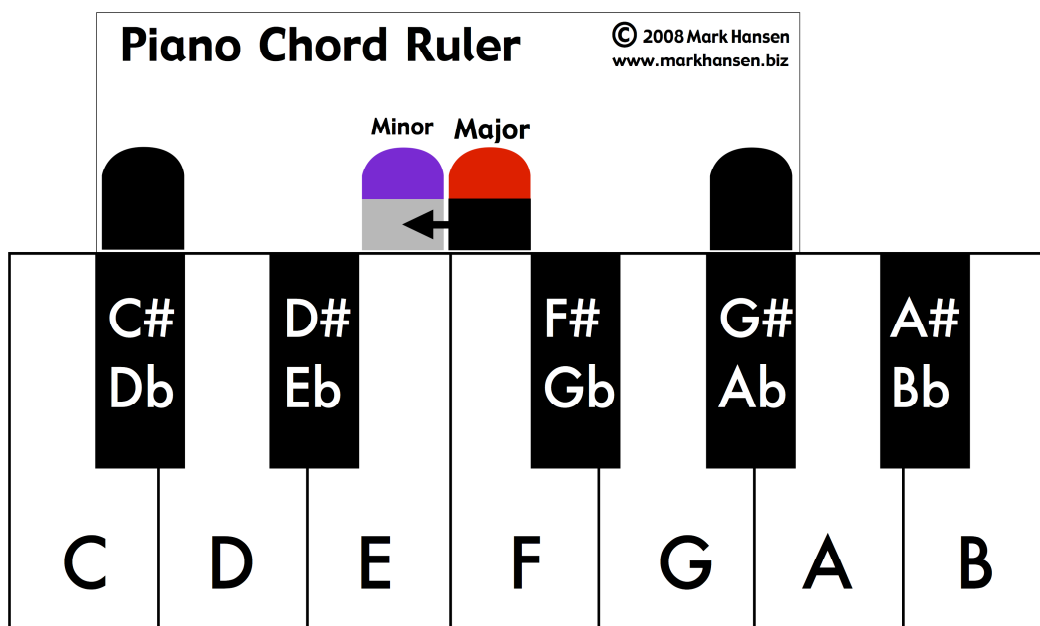
The chord ruler is designed to make learning piano chords easier. It is to be placed standing up behind the black keys and slid back and forth to locate chords. Included in this book are a simple chord ruler for major and minor chords, and several complex ones that include 7ths, 6ths, suspended 4ths, 2nds, 9ths, augmented and diminished chords. We will start with the simple one shown below which you will find at the back of this book. Please print it onto stiff paper or cardboard and cut it out.



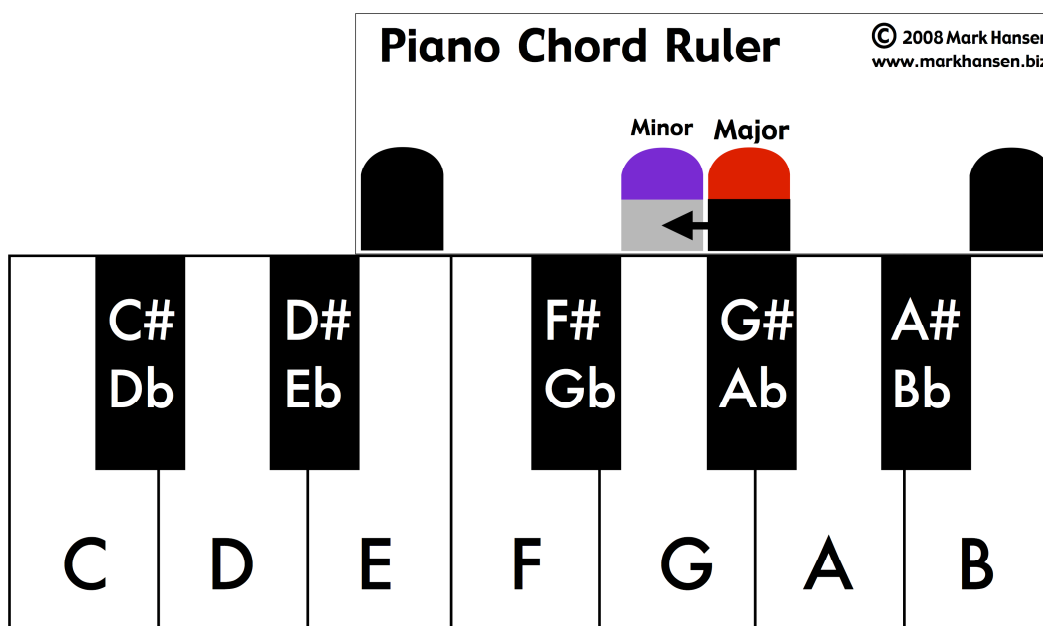
Place it so it lines up with middle C on your keyboard, which is the white note to the left of the group of two black notes in the centre of your keyboard. We will just focus on the two **Black** tabs and one **Black** and **Red** tab marked Major. These three shapes map out the pattern of ALL Major chords on the keyboard.

That's right ALL Major chords. By sliding this to the right or left you can find ALL the Major chords that you will ever need. So starting with C, you will see that the notes in the C Major chord are C-E-G.

Sliding up to Db, the notes in the Db Major chord are Db-F-Ab.



Sliding up to E, lets you find the notes in the E Major chord which are E-G#-B.



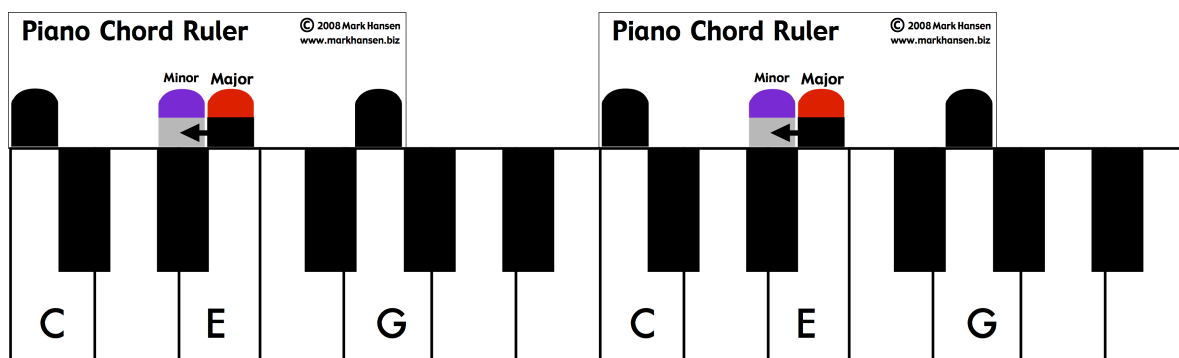
Similarly You can find the other 9 Major chords (because there are 12 in all).

Chord Voicings

You have just learnt all the Major chords in their basic position which is also called the root position because the bottom note in the chord is the name of the chord. For example, the C Major (root position) = C-E-G

You can also move the notes around and make the same C Major chord in other positions. For example E-G-C, G-C-E are first and second positions of the same chord. You don't have to remember what they are called but just that moving notes around creates the same C Major chord with a slightly different sound. We call this creating different **Voicings** of a chord. Chord voicing is important to get smooth and interesting movements between chords.

Lets use two chord rulers to find a number of chord voicings for the C Major chord. Place the chord rulers starting on two adjacent C notes.



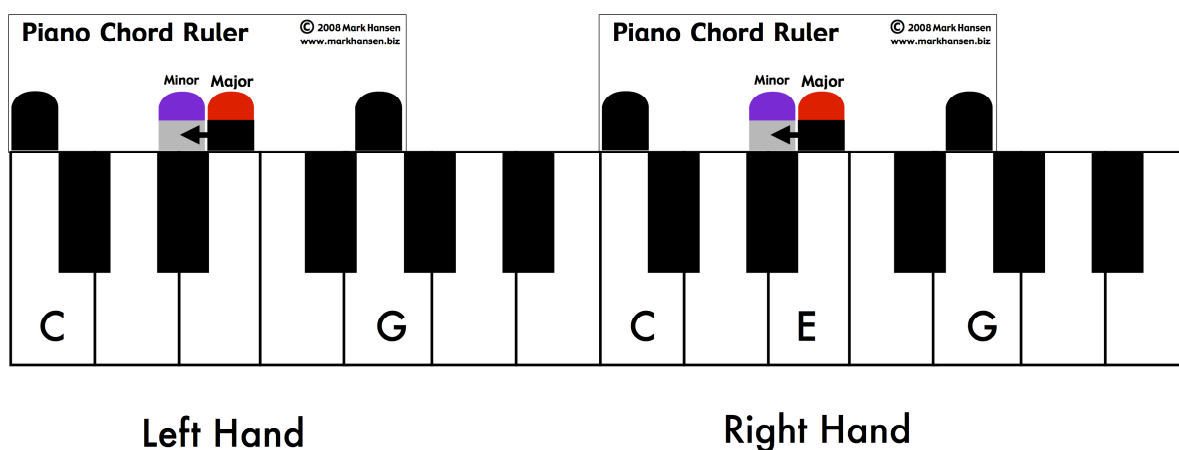
You can now see that there are many choices of notes to make up an interesting C Major chord. For example C-G-E, E-C-G. By using 3 or 4 chord rulers on adjacent C notes, you can see all the possibilities for C Major chords.

Exercises

- (1) Find some different chord voicings for D, G and Ab Major.
- (2) Move from chords G, F to C and back again. Try different voicings to get different feelings of movement between them.

Using Left and Right Hands

When playing chords it is usual for the left and right hands to work together but each plays a slightly differently role. The Left hand will usually spell out the main note of the chord, i.e. C if in C Major, and also may add a G which is the other whole black shape on the chord ruler. The E (Red tab on ruler) is not often added because it can sound muddy down low. It is added if the bottom note calls for an E in a particular chord voicing , eg. E-C-G. You can also play C-C in the left hand (i.e. 8 white notes apart - called an octave) to strengthen the bass sound of your chords.



Exercises

- (1) Try playing F Major using both left (play the two black tabs) and right hands.
- (2) Try playing Bb Major using both left (play an octave) and right hands.

Chord Strumming

There are a number of ways of strumming chords on the piano. It is just a series of steel strings with hammers that hit them after all. So if you imagine your fingers are the hammers it's a bit like strumming a guitar. And some similar techniques apply. Use the chord voicings for C, F and G Major from pages 11-12 in this section.

Straight Blocking - Ballads

What I call Blocking is when you play the notes in a chord all at the same time. You can do this with both hands or just one hand - while the other hand does something else like plays a melody or a bass line. The simplest form of Blocking is Straight Blocking. All you do is play chords in time with a count - 1, 2, 3, 4. No need for fancy rhythms yet. This is good for ballads, and some faster songs.

 Listen to Example 1

Chord	C	F	C	G
Count	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4

The left hand (LH) and right hands (RH) can play at different speeds.

 Listen to Example 2

Chord	C	F	C	G
RH Count	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
LH Count	1	1	1	1

About the Author

Mark Hansen B.E. (Hons), Grad. Dip.Ed., is not only an award winning Australian pianist and composer, but has over 20 years experience in education. He has tutored students one-to-one, as well as in large groups in the classroom.



Mark also spent many years working in Australia's Technical and Further Education System (TAFE), and was voted best teacher by students at Crows Nest TAFE College in 1991. For more than 3 years he wrote distance education materials for TAFE's Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) as well as developing curricula, and overseeing its production and publication.

The idea for the Piano Chord Ruler came to him in a moment of inspiration after years of explaining chords to pupils. He wanted something students could take away with them from class, and use to help them find and remember chord patterns on the piano.

Mark has also taught guitar and knows the power of memorising chord patterns and simple strumming techniques. It is possible to have a student of guitar playing 3 chords and a number of songs in the first lesson. He wanted to apply that same sort of speed of learning to piano, so students could enjoy playing after a few hours and not several months.

To buy this book, or provide feedback please visit the website:-

www.markhansen.biz

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