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Printable "Number System" Charts Of Major/Minor Chords & Scales, Fingering, And Basic Intervals

This PDF has handy-access printable charts to refer to for the Number System taught in the free videos at <http://www.InstantPianoGenius.com> .

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These Charts Only Make Full Sense After You've Watched The Videos

The charts won't make much sense by themselves, they're explained in detail in the free videos on <http://www.InstantPianoGenius.com> and are very useful to refer back to after you understand what they mean from the videos.

Many people have said they've learned more from the first 15 minutes of those free videos than they did taking regular piano lessons for 6 months, something I am very happy to hear.

Here's the point of the number system I'm teaching you: The way most people are taught piano is to learn specific things here and there but without ever "connecting the dots" that makes it all make sense. Understanding this number system means when you learn one thing, you've actually learned a hundred things, which means you get the maximum benefit out of the time you put into it.

My goal is to only focus on the specific things that will open the biggest doors for you that let you become a better piano player the quickest.

Thanks for giving me your time and attention, and I promise not to waste it.

Sincerely, Tim – InstantPianoGenius.com



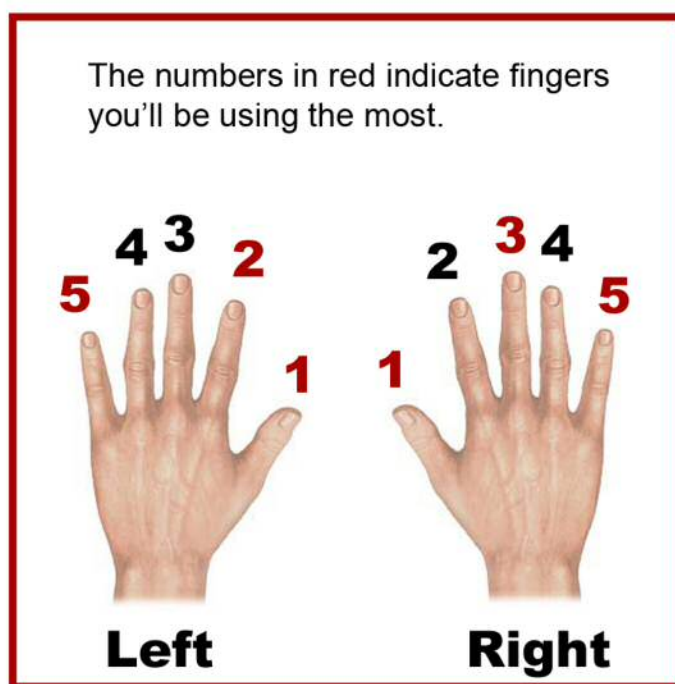
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Fingering

Check out the chart below to make sure you count your fingers the same way I do. :-) Thumbs are #1 (ask the Fonze) and we count out from there:



Your right hand does most of the work. Your left hand will use 1-5 the most, with 2 used a lot as well.

If I were ever going to have one of my fingers broken because I owed money to the mob, I'd request that they break #4 on my left hand, because it wouldn't affect my piano playing much and I could still use #3 to express my displeasure.

(Side note: Try not to owe money to the mob.:-)

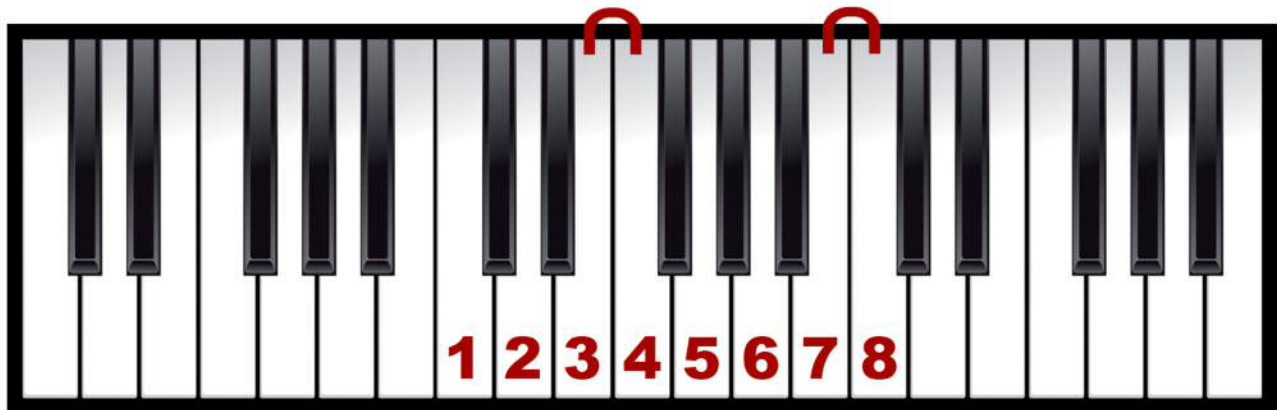




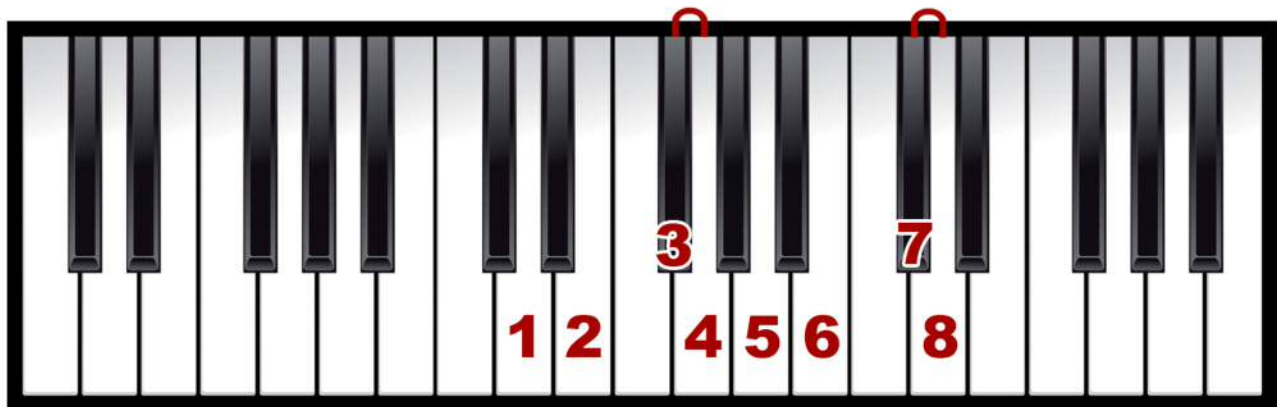
Major Scales

A major scale only has two half-steps in it: From **3-4** and **7-8**.

In the key of C that happens to be all white notes, but knowing that you can play any major scale starting from any key.



In the key of D there happens to be two black notes... again, it's all based on the fact that a major scale is all whole notes except for half steps between **3-4** and **7-8**.

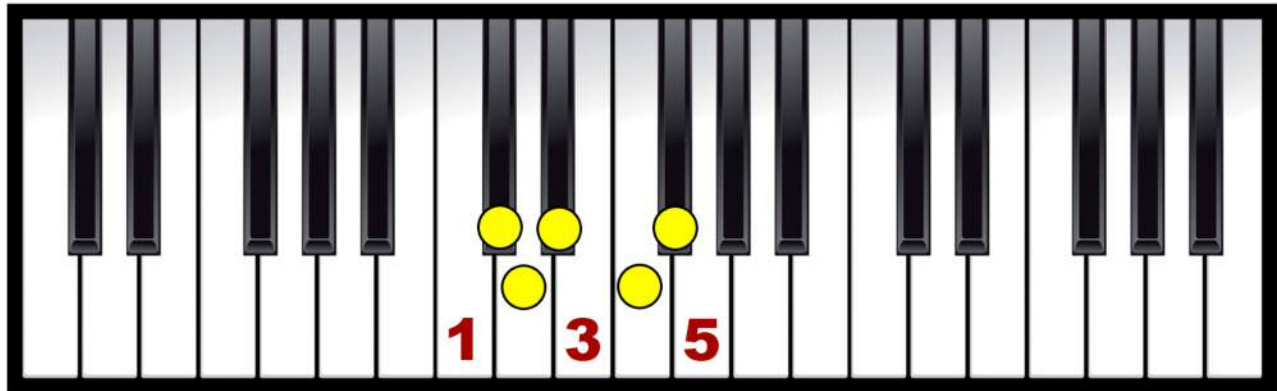


Understanding this, you can now quickly work out what the major scale is in any key. A piano teacher will make you practice these scales over and over, but that misses the bigger point: That knowing how to quickly figure out what notes are in a scale allows you to figure out what related chords to play as well.

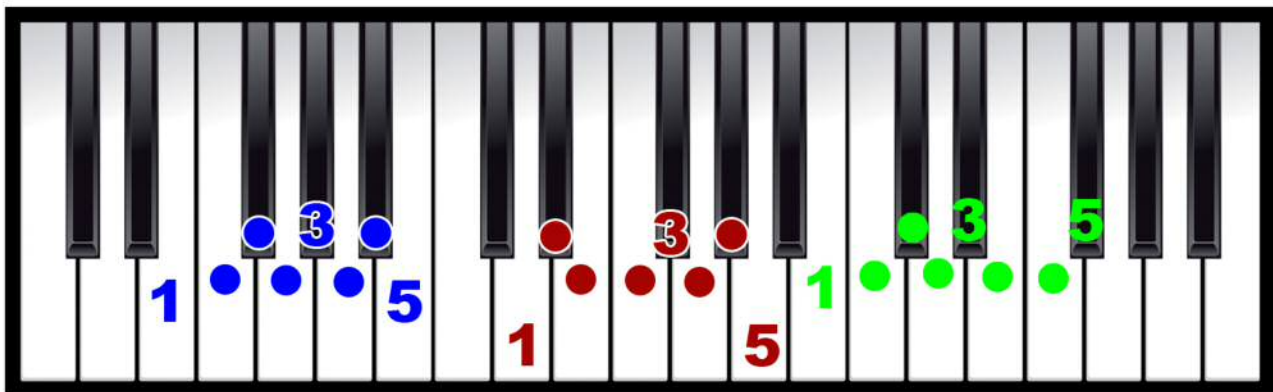


Basic Chords A basic chord is usually a triad, "tri" meaning it has 3 notes in it.

A major chord uses the 1-3-5 notes of a major scale. Based on the major scale intervals, there are always 3 "spaces" between the 1st & 3rd note, and 2 "spaces" between the 3-5 note of the chord. In the key of C, that looks like this:.



A chord is called being in its "root" position when the first note is on the bottom. In this basic "root" position, there is always 3 spaces between the 1st & 3rd note, and 2 spaces between the 3rd & 5th note. Here are color-coded examples for the major chords E (blue), D (red) and B (green).



Common major chords that have the exact same key position (number of white/black notes) are:

C F G (all white notes,: W W W)

D A E (center black note: W B W)

...And **B** is the last chord that starts on a white note: (W B B)

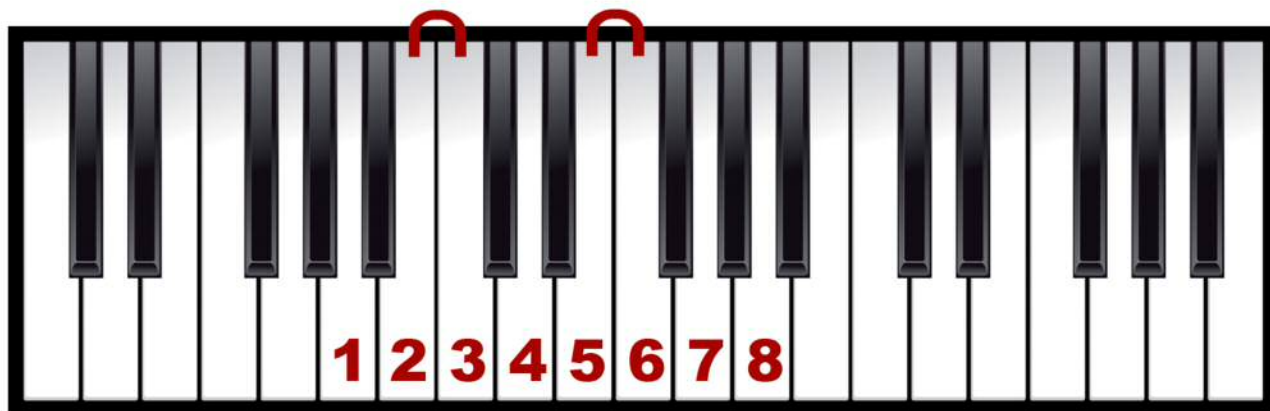


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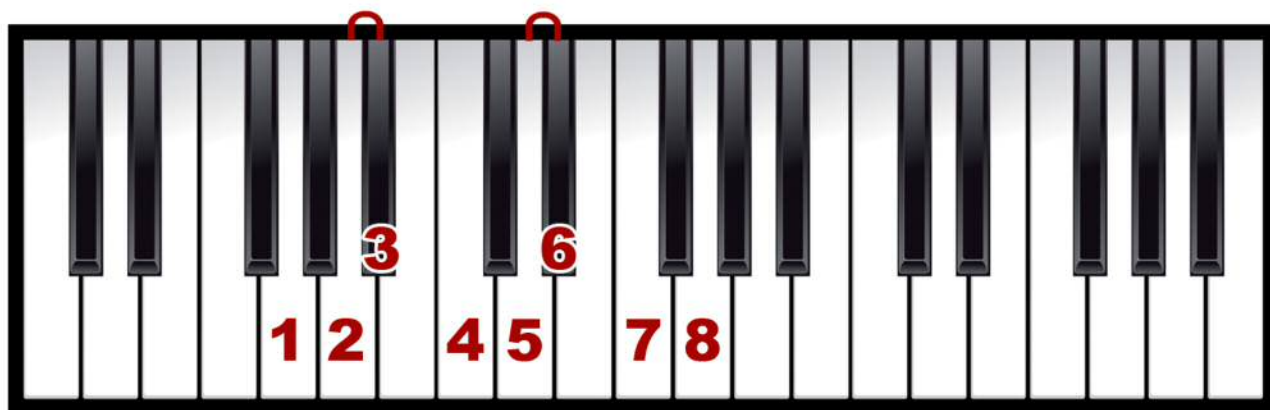
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A **minor scale** also only has two half-steps in it: They're from **2-3** and **5-6**. In the key of Am that happens to be all white notes, but knowing that, you can play any minor scale starting from any key.



In the key of Gm there happens to be two black notes... again, it's all based on the fact that a major scale is all whole notes except for half steps between **3-4** and **7-8**.



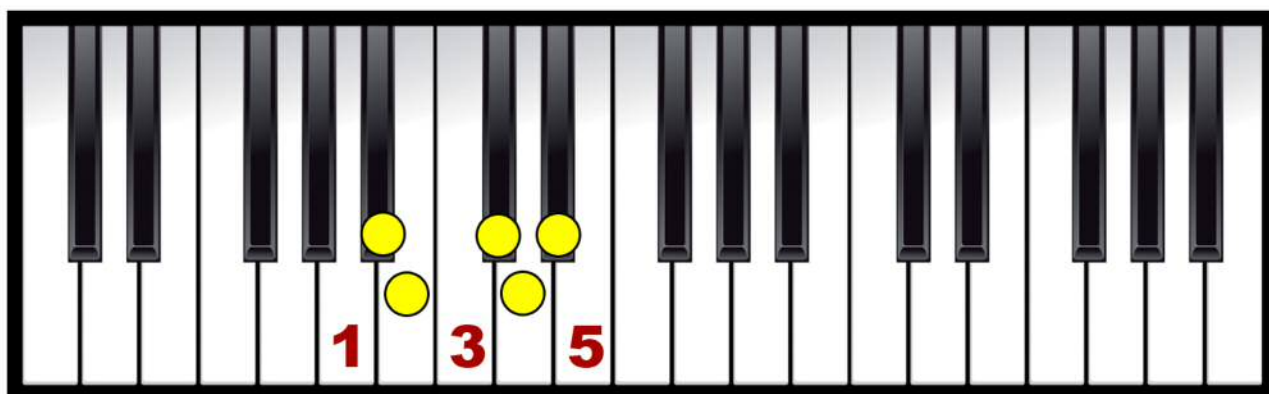
Understanding this, you can now quickly work out what the minor scale is in any key. A piano teacher will make you practice these scales over and over, but that misses the bigger point: That knowing how to quickly figure out what notes are in a scale allows you to figure out what related chords to play as well.

Note: Instead of writing "A-minor scale" or "A-minor chord", I'll be writing Am scale and Am chord. (ie, "m" signifies minor) So D = D Major, Dm = D minor, etc.

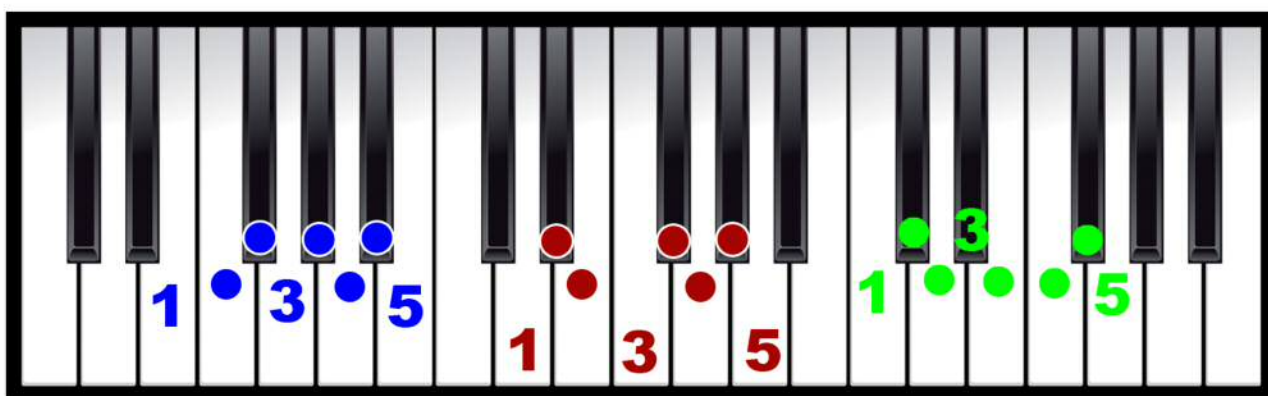


A **Minor Chord** is like a major chord but with the 3rd (middle note) down a half step.

A minor chord uses the **1-3-5 notes of a minor scale**. Based on the minor scale intervals, there are always 2 "spaces" between the 1st & 3rd note, and 3 "spaces" between the 3-5 note of the chord. In the key of Am, that looks like this:.



Minor chords sound sad, while major chords sound happy. Practice listening for the difference if you can't tell automatically. Here are color-coded examples for the minor chords Em (blue), Dm (red) and Cm (green).



Common minor chords that have the exact same key position (number of white/black notes) are:

C F G (center black note: W B W)

D A E (all white notes: W W W)

...And **B** is the last chord that starts on a white note: (W W B)



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Left Hand

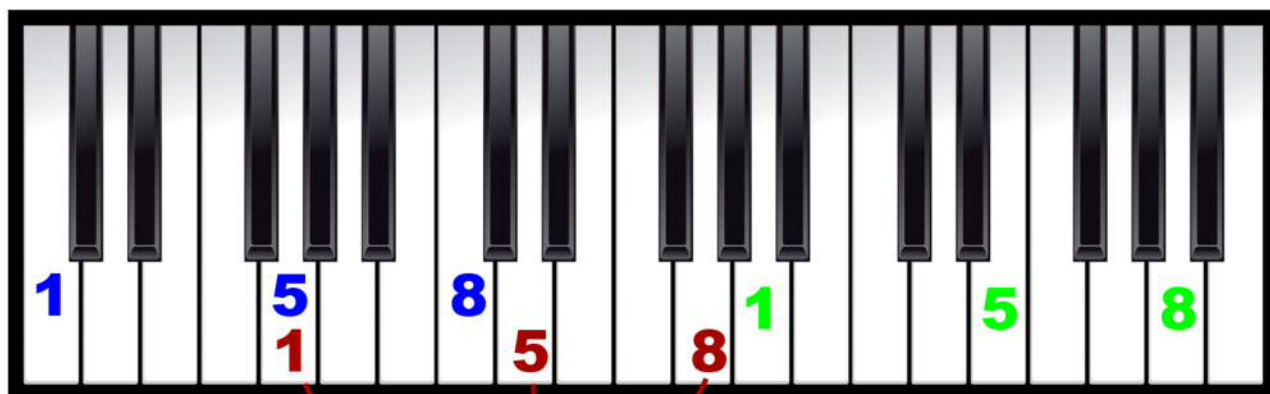
Normally your left hand will either:

- play octaves (1 - 8) simultaneously or alternating
- add the 5th, play each note separately: 1 - 5 - 8
- add coming back down also, so: 1 - 5 - 8, 8 - 5 - 1
- just play one note for now (1) if you're not able to do the above yet.

The color codes below show sample 1 - 5 - 8 notes for different keys.

Blue = key of C, Red = G, Green = A)

These left-handed notes & progressions are the same for both major and minor chords.



Left

An "8" is just a "1" but an octave higher.

(Kind of like how an Ace is both a "1" and "11" in Blackjack, ha ha)



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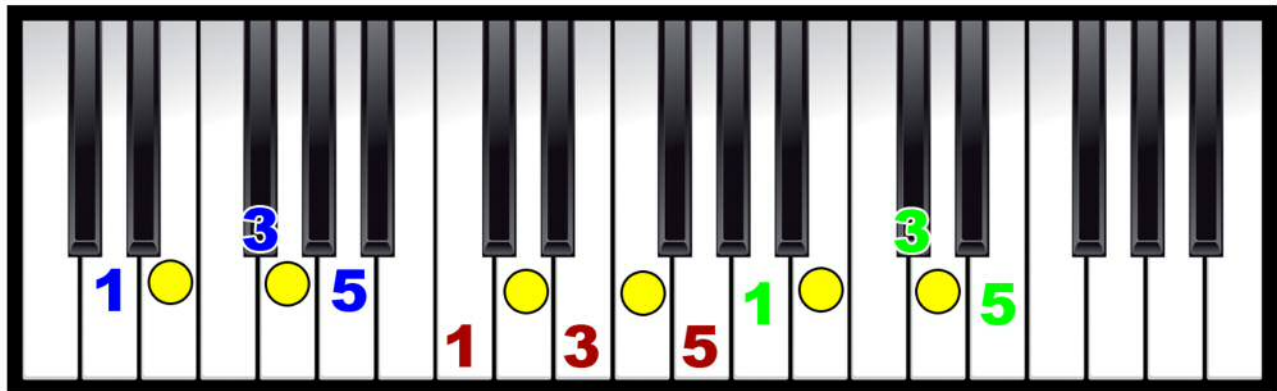
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Playing The 2 & 4 As Passing Notes

To "dress up" your chords, especially if you're playing the same chord for awhile, instead of playing the 3rd, you can alternate it with the 2 and/or 4 sometimes.

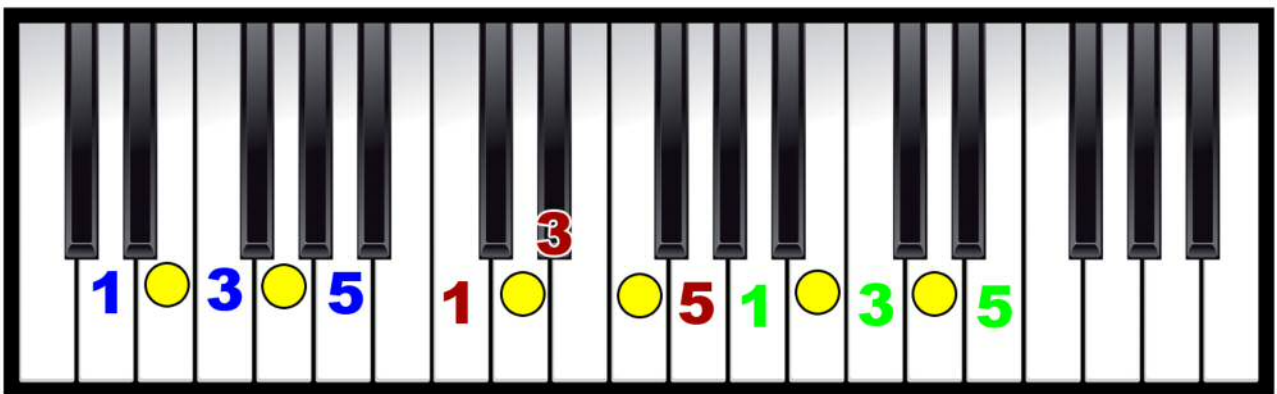
No matter whether you're playing a Major or minor chord, the 2 is a whole step up from the 1, and the 4 is a whole step down from the 5.

Major Chords with 2 & 4 shown in yellow:



Minor Chords (2 & 4 are same, minor 3rd is only change)

Notice how everything below is exactly the same as above except for the 3rd note being a half setp lower for the minor chord. The 2 & 4 notes stay the same.





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Song Chord Progressions

In addition to using numbers to figure out chords, we'll also be using numbers to indicate what the chord progressions in songs are.

The most common chord progression is 1 - 4 - 5

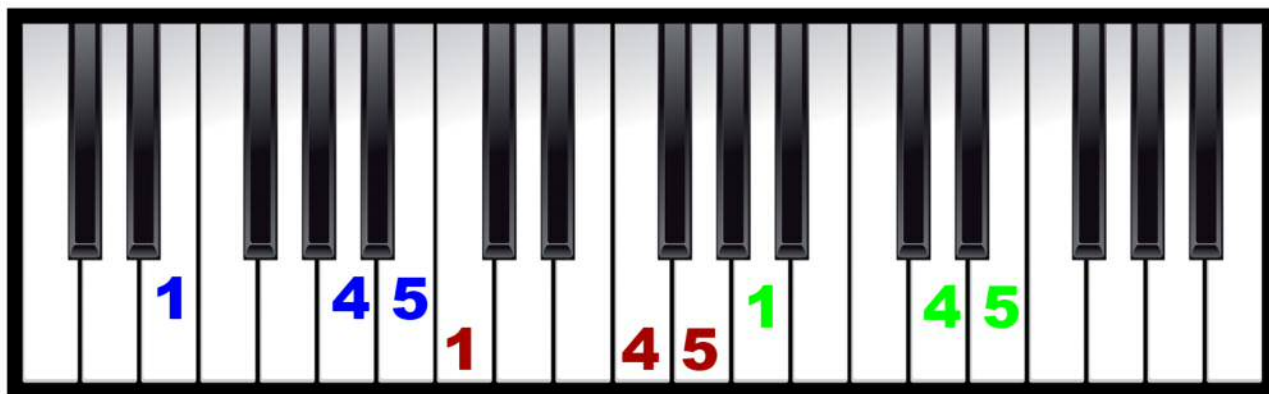
(Also printed as I-IV-V for you roman numeral lovers, but we won't be using that.)

Key point: Each chord still has the 1-3-5 notes in them (1st, 3rd, 5th)...

The **1 - 4 - 5** refers to the chord progression of whatever key you're playing in.

In the key of C (red), 1-4-5 means you're playing the chords C - F - G

In the key of E (blue) it's E - A - B. In the key of A (green) it's A - D - E.



Examples of songs that use nothing but the 1 - 4 - 5 chords of a scale include:

Twist & Shout, Johnny B. Goode, Rock Around The Clock, Old Time Rock & Roll, Great Balls Of Fire, Brown Eyed Girl, Margaritaville, most Blues songs, and thousands of others.

So it makes sense to learn and remember the related 1 - 4 - 5 chord patterns of common scales that songs are in. The most common keys to play songs in are C, D, E, G, A. Each of those song keys has its own related 1 - 4 - 5 chords.

This is explained in detail in the free videos on www.InstantPianoGenius.com. Learning these chord relationships is crucial to unlocking your ability to be able to play hundreds of songs. Be sure to watch the related videos on this.



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I hope these handy charts are helpful for you to refer back to quickly.

Occasionally someone will say that all the talk about numbers is more confusing than learning chords the regular way – Here's why that's not true:

Imagine two kids who wanted to learn to read books: The first kid was taught the alphabet, and the second kid was just taught words without understanding the letters behind them, like "cat", "hat", etc.

After the first day the second kid might feel it was "easier" to have learned "cat" and "hat", but as we know, the kid learning the alphabet will be able to start sounding out words soon, so by learning the alphabet first they'll understand everything and quickly become a better reader.

Not learning this number system I'm showing you is like trying to learn words without learning the letters first. Trust me, it'll be worth the effort. 😊