



LESSON 3-4 : Playing Triads

Pop Piano: Playing Harmony with Triads

Chord Playing Technique

- 3 points to look out for when playing chords:
 - All keys depressed at the same time
 - Keep arms, wrists and fingers relaxed
 - Strong, solid tone quality in the chord

Tone Quality

- Good tone can be obtained by 'DROPPING' our fingers into the keys
- Simple exercise to practice the 'dropping' technique
 - Rest your right hand on the keyboard in its default playing position (each finger to one white key, wrist slightly arched and relaxed)
 - Lift your forearm slightly, but maintaining contact with the keys
 - Relax the forearm, allowing gravity to pull the weight of your forearm down
 - Transfer this weight to your fingers, letting them drop into the keys
 - You should obtain a loud solid sound on the keyboard
 - Repeat the exercise several times on both hands

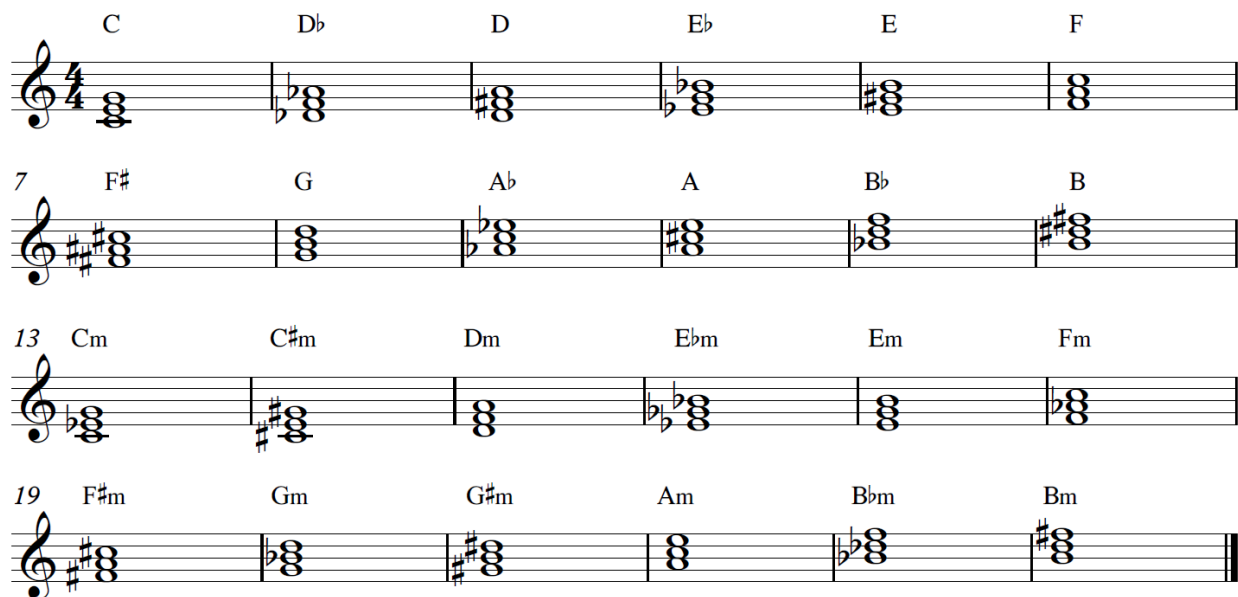
Weight Shift

- Chords require only some keys to be depressed (not all our fingers will be pressing keys at the same time)
- To play triads, the weight must be shifted only onto the thumb, 3rd and 5th fingers
- Simple exercise to practice weight shifting onto the thumb, 3rd and 5th fingers
 - Rest your right hand on the keyboard in its default playing position
 - Raise the 2nd finger slightly (finger should not be sticking out, but slightly above the keyboard, or even just grazing it)
 - Attempt to do the same with the 4th finger

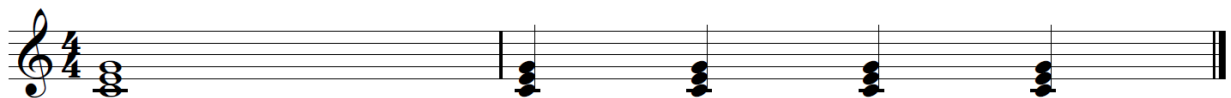
- You should feel a good contact with the keyboard on the thumb, 3rd and 5th fingers
- You should feel at most a slight contact with the keyboard on the 2nd and 4th fingers
- Repeat the dropping motion drill
- Upon dropping the forearm, the weight should shift onto the thumb, 3rd and 5th fingers, obtaining a good tone quality on the depressed keys
- Repeat the exercise with both hands, and with different combinations of fingers

Practicing Triads

- Attempt to play all the major and minor triads on both hands, using the thumb, 3rd and 5th fingers



- A good way to practice the triads would be to first hold them, then play them repeatedly



- When playing triads with black keys, try to play deeper into the keyboard to ensure a good contact with the black keys