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## LESSON 2: MAJOR TRIADS ON WHITE KEYS

Classical Piano: Major 5-Finger Patterns on White Keys

### MAJOR TRIADS (CHORDS)

Diagram illustrating the structure of a Major Triad (Chord) on a five-line staff:

LINE LINE LINE      5th 3rd ROOT      OR      SPACE SPACE SPACE      5th 3rd ROOT

Below the staff, the LH (Left Hand) and RH (Right Hand) positions are shown with fingerings:

LH: 1 3 5      RH: 5 3 1

Root Position Chords

### MAJOR TRIADS AND 5-FINGER PATTERNS

Diagram illustrating the 5-Finger Patterns on a five-line staff:

TONIC (I)      DOMINANT (V)

RH: 1 2 3 4 5

WHOLE STEP      WHOLE STEP      HALF STEP      WHOLE STEP

C Major

Diagram showing the C Major scale on a piano keyboard, with the notes C, D, E, F, G highlighted in red circles.



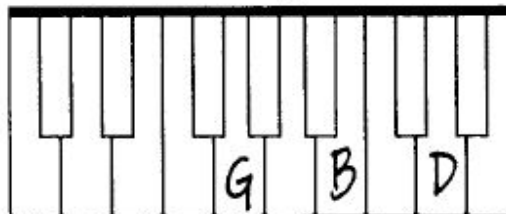
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## ALL MAJOR TRIADS BEGINNING ON THE WHITE KEYS

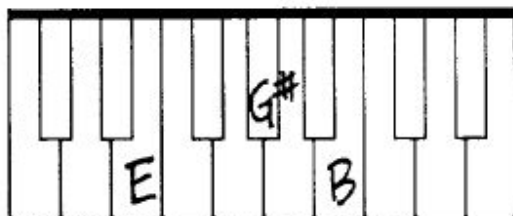
D Major



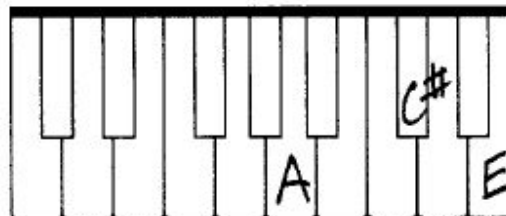
G Major



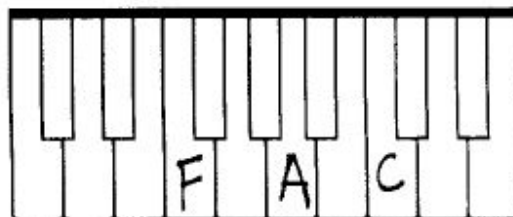
E Major



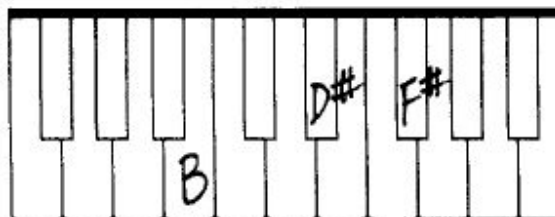
A Major



F Major



B Major



## MAJOR TRIADS TECHNIQUE AND ARM WEIGHT

- Using any of the above major triads, practice sinking the arm weight into the three notes in the chord.
- When playing the chord, avoid sticking out finger number 2 and 4, rest them on the keys to keep a natural hand position
- Feel more weight going into the 1st, 3rd, and 5th finger to play the chord



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- Feel more of a focal point at the base of the 3rd finger and also at the center of wrist.
- Practice the chord by playing fingers 1 and 3 first, then 3 and 5, then all three notes.
- The 3rd finger is the balancing point of the chord. By balancing the weight on this finger and the base of the finger, it would be easier to play the chords.

## BROKEN VS. BLOCKED CHORDS

**Broken Chords** - the three notes in a triad are played separately

**Blocked Chords** - the three notes in a triad are played simultaneously



## 5-FINGER PATTERNS AND CHORDS





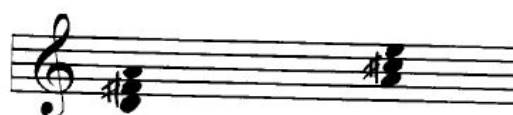
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## TONIC (I) AND DOMINANT (V) CHORDS



C Major triad  
in root position

G Major triad  
in root position



D Major triad  
in root position

A Major triad  
in root position

## HARMONIZING THE MELODY WITH I AND V CHORDS





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## Practicing I and V



### Practicing tips:

- Playing just the root of each chord, using finger 5, go back and forth between the two notes, C and G. This allows you to build in the muscle memory to know how far to go down and come back up
- Add the middle note for each chord, using fingers 3 and 5 to play the root and the middle note of each chord, go back and forth between the two chords, C and E, G and B. Remember to focus more on the 3rd finger.
- Play the entire chords. Guide with your pinky for each chord, still focusing the balance on the 3rd finger.
- Practice the chords with your eyes closed to test how well you have learned the distance between the two chords.

### Right hand:

- Count in 8th notes: 1+2+3+4+
- Count in quarter notes: 1 2 3 4



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### Hands together:

- Lift the left hand at the end of each measure (after counting 4) to prepare moving to the next chord

Handwritten musical notation for a piano exercise. It consists of two staves, treble and bass, in 4/4 time. The first measure of the treble staff has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a half note (C5), with a '3' above the triplet. The bass staff has a whole note chord (C4, E4, G4) labeled 'I' below it. A red 'lift' is written below the first measure. The second measure of the treble staff has a half note (C5), a quarter note (B4), and a quarter note (A4). The bass staff has a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) labeled 'V' below it. A second red 'lift' is written below the second measure.