

# Learn Piano By Chords

## Welcome!

If you want to learn how to play piano the easy way then you have come to the right place! Many classical teachers will stress the importance of musical theory and being able to read sheet music. While this is indeed important if you are playing classical music, the casual rock and pop player will be able to get by without these skills. I want to get you up and playing tunes from bands such as the Beatles, Animals, Pink Floyd, Radiohead, Red Hot Chillie Peppers and any other band you fancy, with as little effort as possible. Most guitar players have little formal training, they tend to pick things up by ear and play songs by chords, this is how I am aiming to teach you piano on this page.

While we will be keeping the musical theory to a minimum there will be some items that you will be required to memorize. This is unavoidable however I aim to show you the building blocks of the various chords and scales that will allow YOU to work out any chord you need on the spot. If you dont know what a chord or a scale is, dont worry, everything will be explained. It is not as daunting as it sounds.

I have been searching the internet for a page such as the one you are reading now. Many pages claim to have courses that you can purchase that will teach you how to "play piano by ear" or "learn the chord method", this website contains the same information as those courses and whats best of all, its all FREE.

The most important thing you can do is make a commitment to learn the piano. This means putting in the effort over the course of several weeks to learn and practise the theory taught on these pages.

As we progress in musical knowledge I will be getting you to apply your new found skills not by practising boring technical excercises, but by applying your knowledge to play popular tunes. Every time I show you something new, I will try to give you a tune which exploits that new skill so that you automatically get practise with it!

You do not neccecarily need to have a piano at home, but some sort of keyboard instrument will be required. This can be something as simple as a \$100 keyboard bought from your local music store. I would suggest a keyboard with at least 49 keys preferably full sized, anything smaller and you will be struggling to use it as your piano skills get more advanced.



Oscar Peterson, one of the Jazz piano greats.

On this page I am going to explain to you some of the fundamental pieces of knowledge that you must have before you can play a piece of music. If you already know this stuff then feel free to skip ahead. These will be divided into the following sections. If you don't already know this stuff then I have some bad news, this is the stuff that *\*must\** be memorized and learnt. Don't worry it's fairly simple stuff and you will be playing your first song very soon!

[The Keyboard](#) - Note names and positions

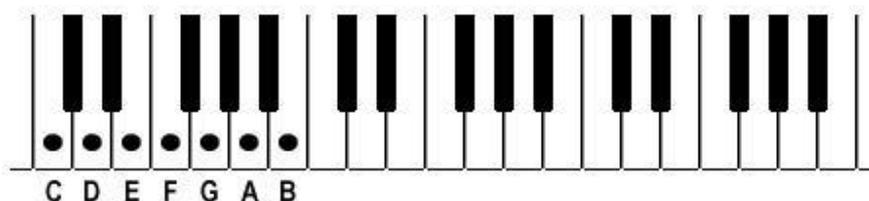
[Chords and Scales](#) - What are they

## The Keyboard

Ok the first thing you need to do is learn the names of the keys on the keyboard, this is not as difficult a task as it sounds, there are only 12 unique keys on the keyboard. The musical alphabet goes from A through to G, so every white key on any keyboard will take one of these letter names (forget about the black keys for the moment).

Now if we look at the keyboard below all the unique white keys have their letters written under them. Notice that the black keys come in a group of two followed by a group of three, this is what we can use to identify the white keys. For example, the white key immediately to the left of a group of the two black keys is called C. The white key in the middle of the two black keys is D, the white key to the left of the three black keys group is F and so on. The note names repeat after every 8 white keys as can be seen on the keyboard below. You only need to learn the positions and names of the seven unique white keys, this allows you to name *any* white key on the keyboard.

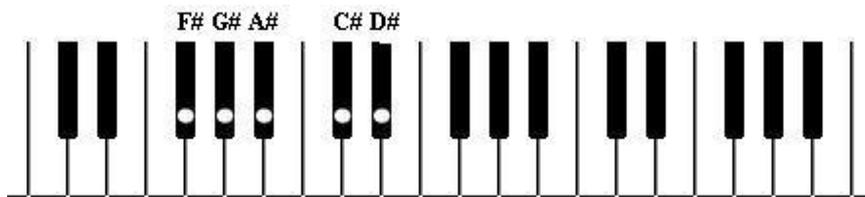
So go on, learn the positions of the white keys now, spend a little while on it, it's best to do it in front of a real keyboard. Once you think you know them fairly well, try closing your eyes, pressing a white key at random, opening your eyes and trying to name what key it is.



The unique white keys on a keyboard

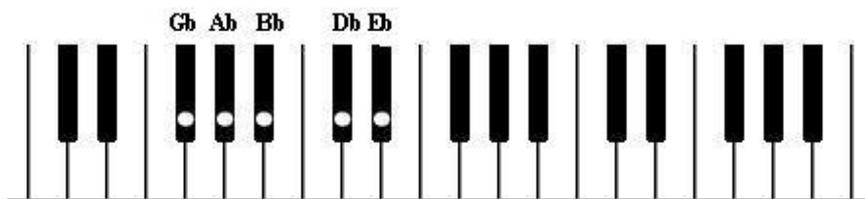
Ok, I've focused on the white keys so far, and that's because the black keys are easy to learn once you know your white keys. In fact the names of the black keys are based on the white keys near them. There are only 5 unique black keys on the keyboard, these have been named and shown below.

I must explain to you what sharp and flat means before you can understand the black key names. Basically sharpening a note means raising it to the next note immediately to the right of it. So if we find the F key (its to the left of the three black keys) and sharpen it, the note immediately to the right of it is a black key and is called F sharp or F#. Similarly the note immediately to the right of G is the black key G# and so on.



The black keys on the keyboard in terms of sharps

One little thing I must explain before moving on is that each black key has two names, this is because of the flat operator. The flat operator is the opposite of the sharp operator, instead of going up to the next note above, you go down to the next note immediately below. Lets look at the next graphic to see this in action.



The black keys on the keyboard in terms of flats

So the black key immediately below G becomes G flat or Gb, the black key below A becomes Ab and so on. It is important to learn and remember both the names for each black key (the sharp and the flat name) because both names are used in music.

This should be your next task, to learn both the names for each of the black keys on the keyboard. Spend a little bit of time on this to get it right, because you are going to be using it all the time throughout this webpage as well as any piece of music you may decide to play.

## Chords and Scales

Ok, you've come this far, let me just explain a couple of terms used commonly by musicians all over the world.

A chord is a group of notes played at the same time. Yes its that simple! Ok it gets a bit more complicated, because the exact notes that are being played determine the type of chord. Common chords are usually played with 2, 3, 4, 5 or indeed any number of notes

that people can possibly play with their hands. The chord is the basic building block of all modern rock and pop music. In a piece of music the melody is usually based on the chord being played at that time, we'll see exactly how this works a little later on.

A scale is basically a sequence of notes, it might be best to demonstrate with an example. The most popular scale is the C Major scale, you can play this yourself right now. Start at the note C and play every white note in succession until you get to the C above the one on which you started. You'll notice this scale as you've no doubt heard it many times before.

Listen to this scale [here](#)

Now this is just one possible scale, there are hundreds of different types of musical scales, thankfully we will only need to know a couple to be able to play rock and pop music.

Dont worry you're doing well, you almost know enough to play your first song!

Excellent, you're doing fantastic so far! Now I am going to show you how to play your first piece of music, Silent Night. I know, its a far cry from the Beatles but dont worry once you get these few basic chords down you will be able to pick up a Beatles or any other song and play it.

I'm going to throw you in the deep end here, you need to work out the melody for Silent night by yourself by EAR. This means listening to the piece and using trial and error to work out how the melody goes. Its not that difficult and its the only way to learn a tune if you dont want to learn to read music.

Heres a [midi](#) of the melody of Silent Night to help you work it out. Let me help you get underway, its all white keys and it starts on G. The first bit goes GAGE, the next bit is DDBCCG. Ok thats all I'm going to help for the time being, you need to learn to pick up songs by ear so you'll have to keep playing the rest of it and working out what notes it contains. Make sure to play the melody with your right hand as we'll need the left hand in a minute to play some accompaniment.

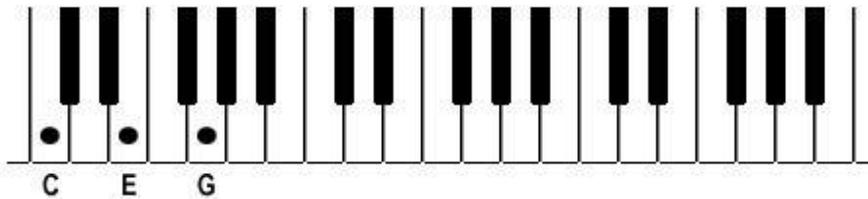
## **Your first chords**

Now that you've got the melody down you want to make it sound a bit more like a piano piece by adding something with your left hand to it. That something is going to be chords. The reason I have chosen Silent Night as your first piece is because it only contains three chords, and they are all of the same type - Major.

Remember, a chord is just two or more notes played at the same time, for the purposes of this song we are going to be using three note chords also known as *triads*.

So what are the chords you need to know? C Major, F Major and G Major, I will now show you how to play each of these chords on the keyboard. To play the chord simply press the keys marked for the chord. So to play C Major I would press C, E and G at the same time.

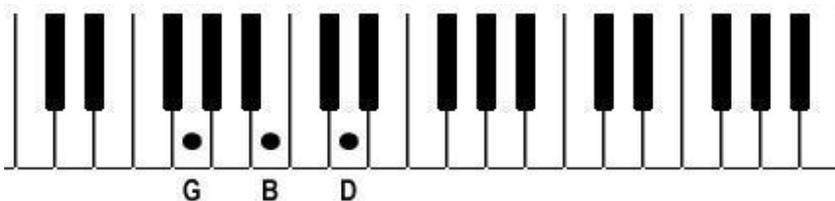
### C Major



### F Major



### G Major



You should memorize the above chords because you'll need them when you try to play the song.

The next thing you need is a "chord sheet", this is a way of telling you where the chords come with respect to the melody and lyrics. So If you look below I've included a chord sheet for Silent Night, now what you need to do is play the melody which you picked out by ear earlier and the chords as specified by the sheet below, together.

So to start you off, you would play the first note of the song (a G) with your right hand while at the same time playing the C chord as given above with your left hand. Now simply keep holding the C chord while you play the first line of the song. When the melody gets up to the section where the G chord is simply play a G chord in your left hand and continue with the melody in the right. Continue this all the way through until you can play the whole song with chords in your left and melody in your right hand at the

same time. You might want to print out the chord sheet below and take it over to your piano or keyboard.

An [example](#) of playing Silent Night with chords and melody at the same time. You'll notice on the example that I am moving the chords around a little bit. That means that i'll play the C chord low down then next time play it higher up on the keyboard. You can try this once you're comfortable with the chords as well, it makes the song a bit more interesting.

```
C
Silent night, holy night
G           C
All is calm, All is bright
F           C
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
F           C
Holy Infant so Tender and mild,
G           C
Sleep in heavenly peace,
C           G           C
Sleep in heavenly peace.
```

<Ending Riff>

```
C           G           C
```

And there you go! You're first piano song, that wasnt so difficult was it?

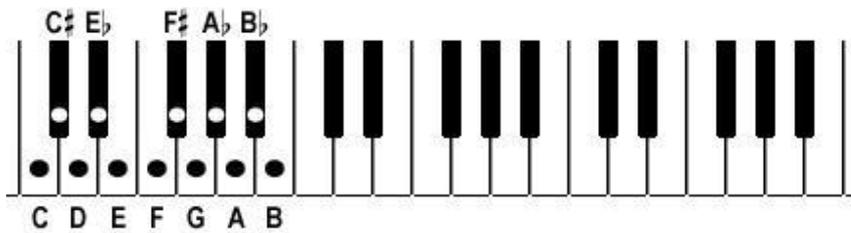
Great well now that you've got your first song down its time to do a tiny bit more theory, dont worry I'll try to keep it short.

Now that you know three Major chords (C F and G), I'm going to give you a formula that will allow you to work out any Major chord that you may need.

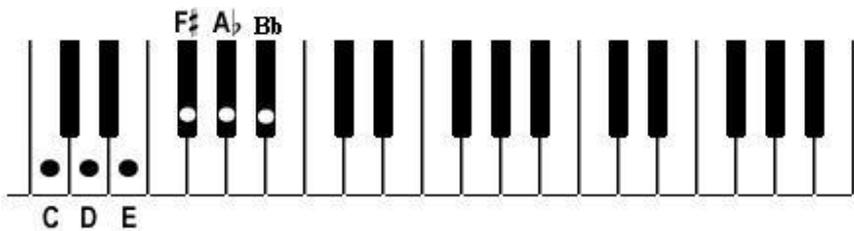
## Whole Tones and Half Tones

Before I can give you the formula I just need to take a second to explain to you what a whole tone is and what a half tone is.

A half tone is the smallest possible interval between two notes on the piano, so looking at the keyboard below C to C# would be a half-tone, C# to D would be a half-tone, D to Eb would be a half tone. Interestingly E to F and B to C are also half tones because they do not have a black note separating them.



Now very simply, a whole tone is twice the width of the half tone interval(strange that, isn't it?). So looking at the keyboard below we see some whole tones as being C to D, D to E, E to F#, F# to Aflat, Aflat to Bflat and Bflat to C. There are of course more, A to B, B to C# etc, these are all whole tones, once you get the idea of what a whole tone and a half tone is you are ready to move on.



Ok congratulations on getting this far, you're almost ready to unlock a whole host of songs! You just need to know a couple of the most common chord types and how to work them out then you'll be in business!

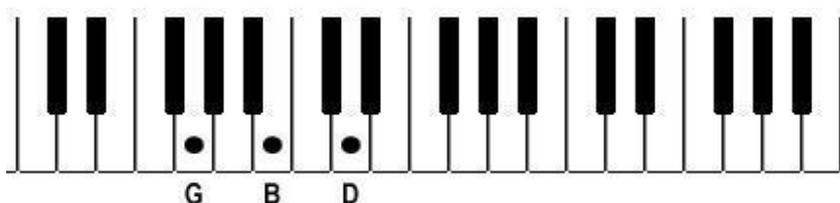
Once you work out the notes of the chords given below you would normally play the chord by pressing all the notes of the chord at the same time. Every time you work out a new chord you should try this to hear how the chord sounds.

### The Major Chord

You've already seen three of these(C F and G) before, in Silent Night. Now I am going to give you the power to work out any Major chord anywhere on the keyboard.

Say we wanted to work out the major chord G Major the process is as follows(its probably best to practise this at the keyboard).

Find the note G on the keyboard this is known as the root note of the chord.



G major chord

Next count up 4 half tones from G to get you to B, this is the second note of your chord. Now count up 3 half tones from B to get you to D. This is your G major chord G-B-D!

So the Major chord consists of the root note, a note 4 half tones above the root note, a note 3 half tones above the middle note. Thats it! As soon as you read that you just learnt all the major chords on the keyboard!

**The Major chord consists of the an interval of 4 half tones followed by an interval of 3 half tones**

Lets try another one, work out the A Major chord.

Find the root note, in this case A.

Count up 4 half tones from A to get C#.

Count up 3 half tones from C# to get E

And wolah! we have the A major chord, A - C# - E!

Ok you're almost there, two more chords to go.

### **The Minor Chord**

The minor chord is another chord that is used commonly in many popular songs, it has a sadder more laid back tone to it then the major chord.

**The Minor chord cosists of an interval of 3 half tones followed by an interval of 4 half tones**

What does this mean? Well the process is the same as the process to work out the major chord. Suppose we wanted the G minor chord (commonly denoted as Gm) we would start by finding the root note, in this case G. Now count up 3 half tones from G to get Bflat, now count up 4 half tones from Bflat to get D and theres your Gm chord, G - Bflat - D!

I want you to convince yourself that the following minor chords are indeed correct, it will be easier to do this if you have a keyboard in front of you.

Am = A C E

Cm = C Eflat G

Fm = F Aflat C

Excellent! One more chord to go then we can start looking at some tunes.

## The 7th Chord

This is another very popular chord in music, it is known as the 7th chord or dominant 7th. It is usually written on chord sheets as C7, D7, E7 etc, and it is very similar to the major chord.

**The 7th chord consists of an interval of 4 half tones followed by an interval of 3 half tones followed by an interval of 3 half tones**

The 7th chord thus is comprised of four notes, not three like the previous chords.

I will walk you through the process of working out a 7th chord. Suppose we want E7, we find the root note - E on the keyboard.

Now count up 4 half tones from E to get to G#

Now count up 3 half tones from G# to get you to B

Now count up 3 half tones from B to get you to D

So your E7 chord would consist of E - G# - B - D

Try to work out the following 7th chords

G7 = G B D F

A7 = A C# E G

E7 = E G# B D

Phew! That was a lot of information wasn't it? Well now that it's done, you are ready to forge on and play some tunes!

You now have the knowledge needed to play some simple tunes, I think this would be a good time to let you know about [olga.net](http://olga.net). This is an excellent archive of guitar chord sheets, you can use this to find the chords to just about any song you want to play.

[Let It Be](#) - The Beatles

[Under The Bridge](#) - Red Hot Chillie Peppers

[More Simple Songs](#)

**Let it be**

I think we'll start with a simple song, Let it be by the Beatles. We'll start off with the [chord sheet](#) download and open that up first.

Take a moment to look through it, it only contains major and minor chords, which you know! So the first step to playing this song would be to play through by simply playing the chords as I have done here.

### [Let it be Chords.mid](#)

I am doing nothing more than playing the chords here with the occasional little run to transition between the chords. Take your time to work out the chords as you go along, it will take a long time at first but believe me you'll get much faster at it very quickly. Remember, look at the chord sheet, take a chord, work out how to play the chord, repeat for every chord in the song (There's not that many, only about 4 or 5). If you're having trouble with this maybe you should go back over the [common chords](#).

If you want to sing along to this song then it would be best to play these chords in your right hand and play a bass note with your left hand. The bass note would be the same as the chord that you are playing, for example on G you would play G major chord in your right hand with a low G note played with your left hand. You could then sing the melody on top of this.

If you're like me and you can't sing, then you might want to play the chords in your left hand and try adding a melody in your right hand. You might want to make it sound something like this.

[Let it be chords plus melody](#). (Please excuse the playing I've only got a tiny midi keyboard with three octaves and miniature keys)

You might want to try something a bit more interesting in the left hand, maybe playing the top two notes of each chord together followed by the bottom note of the chord. It might sound like this.

[Let it be chords](#) with changing lefthand.

Try doing that with your left hand while playing the melody with your right hand and you'll have a decent version of the song! Congrats, that makes two songs under your belt now!

## **Under the bridge**

This is another good song that works well with nothing more than a few simple chords. [Under the Bridge](#) by Red Hot Chili Peppers. Take a minute to look over the chord sheet for this song, notice that the chords are only given for one line of the verse and two lines of the chorus, this is because it is a very repetitive song. Every line of the verse has the same chords as the first line, and the second two lines of the chorus contain the same

chords as the first two lines of the chorus. So really you only have three lines to learn to learn the whole song!

There's one chord in this song that you don't know yet, it's the chord just at the end of the verse, an Emaj7 (E major 7th), the Major 7th chord is very similar to the major chord. For the moment I will just tell you the Emaj7 has E G# B Eflat as its notes. Notice that this is different from the E7 chord which would be E, G#, B, and D. If you must know how I worked out the Emaj7 chord you can have a read of the [advanced chords](#) section.

Apart from this the song is pretty straight forward, you can start with simple chords in the left hand as we did with Let it be, then practise the melody in the right hand. Once you are comfortable with both try putting them together as I have done below. You should probably listen to the original song rather than my dodgy version of it :)

### [Under the bridge.mid](#)

If you wanted you could sing this one by playing the chords in the right hand while playing a single bass note in the left hand just as for Let it be. The bass note would again be the same note as the chord name, so with a B chord play the B note, an E chord play the E note, and sing the lyrics as you're doing it. Another thing you could try is playing the chords with both hands, so you would play B chord with your right hand while playing the same B chord with your left hand lower down on the keyboard. Again you could sing on top of this.

You are now ready to try playing a whole host of popular songs armed with the three chords you know, the Major, Minor and the 7th chord. Have a look around on [olga](#), search for your favourite songs and if they contain chords you know, don't be afraid to give them a try. Remember, take it slowly, work out how to play the particular chords the song is asking for, then learn the melody, then put them together, and as always, don't be afraid to experiment!

Congratulations! You now know three songs! Have a look below for some more simple songs!

### **More Simple Songs**

Well I've compiled a small list of songs here that I feel are easy enough for you to attempt at this stage, if you don't like anything on here then feel free to head out on to the world wide web and find something you do like. You'll notice in some of these chord sheets that the lyrics are only partly given, this is because it gets the publishers of these chord sheets around copyright issues associated with hosting the chord sheet. This means that you need to listen to the original song to work out where the chord changes should happen. Check out [Time Of Your Life](#) to see what I mean.

[Time Of Your Life](#) - Greenday. Really a guitar song, but it doesn't hurt to try it on the piano.

[Imagine](#) - John Lennon. This is an excellent song to play on the piano, not too difficult but sounds quite nice. Just watch out for the Cmaj7 chord. Cmaj7 would become C, E, G, B. Try it out and see how it sounds. Be careful, this song has quite a few different chords, be sure to work them out correctly.

[Hotel California](#) - Eagles. This is an excellent song which sounds quite ok when played on the piano, nothing too complicated in here, though again it does have quite a few chords so make sure to work them out correctly.

[Easy](#) - Lionel Richie/Faith no more. Check out the [midi](#) for a cool way to play it, this midi wasnt created by me. A lot of sharps in this song, still theres nothing here you dont know, its all majors and minors.

[House of The Rising Sun](#) - Animals. This song sounds great when played on a piano, if you've got a keyboard that can simulate an organ sound its even better! The melodies quite simple and the chords are great. [Heres](#) a way you can play the chords, though it will take a lot of work to get your left hand to be able to do this. Theres nothing tricky here, i'm just playing the given chords but instead of plonking them down at once, i'm breaking the chord up and playing each note separately. Learning to play a melody on top of this with your right hand takes even more practise.

[Sitting on the Dock of the Bay](#) - Otis Redding. A great slow tune to relax you after a hard days work. I couldnt find a decent midi version of it so if you dont know how it goes you'll have to listen to the original version(or find your own midi).

Continue on to the next section where i'll show you how to make your playing a bit more interesting even with these simple chords.

## Inversions

First things first, dont panic! This isnt as complicated as it sounds, its a simple technique that will make your songs sound a lot better and also give you much more choice in choosing what to play when you see a chord symbol.

Up until now you have been playing all your chords in what is known as root position, this means playing the note with the same name as the chord as the lowest note of your chord.



C Major Chord

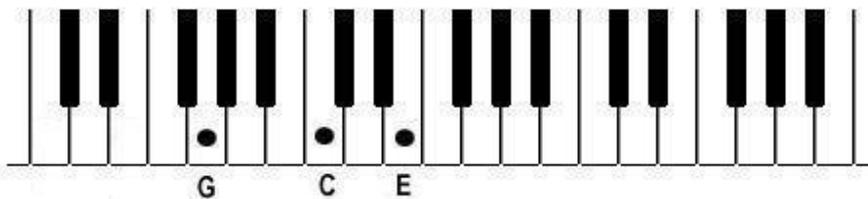
The C Major chord shown above is in root position because the C note is on the bottom, but hold on a second, what if we don't play C at the bottom, but we play it at the top like this.



C Major Chord first inversion denoted as C/E

Notice that it's still the same chord, C Major. It contains the same notes as your regular C Major chord, but the root note (C) is now at the top. Try playing this and comparing the sound it makes with the regular C Major chord, it sounds slightly different but has the same quality as the normal C major chord. You can play this version of the chord almost anywhere you see a C chord specified. If they specifically want you to play this version of the C chord then they would denote it as C/E. This means "play me a C chord but use E as the bottom note".

How many such inversions are there for a particular chord? Well simple maths tells us that for a 3 note chord there are three possible ways to play it. Either with the C on the bottom, the E on the bottom or the G on the bottom. The third way to play the C chord is shown below, with G on the bottom.



C Major chord second inversion, denoted as C/G

For a four note chord such as C7 (C E G A#) there are four possible ways to play it. With either the C, E, G or A# on the bottom. Try out each of the different ways of playing this chord and see how they sound. It may take you a while to work out the chord in the new positions but believe me it's well worth the effort.

This applies to any chord you may care to come across, they can all be played inverted to give a slightly different feel to the chord.

Well that's all there is to inversions, they are a simple yet powerful way of giving yourself much more freedom when choosing what notes to play for a given chord.

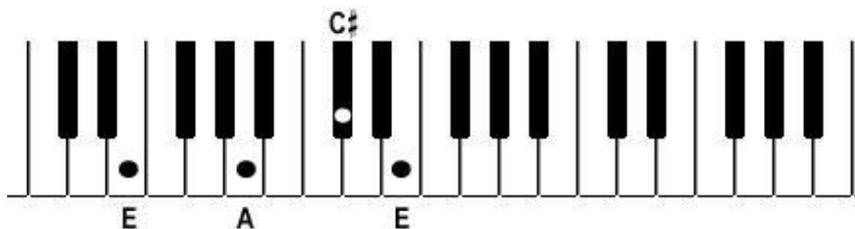
Now what you need to do is go back to some of the songs you did on the previous pages and try to play them using some inverted versions of the chords. Experiment with this, try different inversions on different chords, play some chords in their root positions (the position you have always been playing them in) while playing others in their inverted positions. You'll soon find that you can get a much nicer sound by using the inverted versions of the chords at the right times. A good song to try this with first would be [Under the bridge](#). This song sounds good no matter what position you play the chords in.

## Slash Chords

Well if you haven't noticed by now, I'm trying to show you things in such a way as to allow you to pick up any chord sheet and play the song on it. And no, slash chords are not the chords used solely by the Guns'n'Roses guitarist Slash!

Don't worry, there's nothing tricky about this either. A slash chord will be denoted on a chord sheet as something like A/E or Dm/C or E7/A. What this means is you play the chord specified on the left hand side of the slash but below the chord you add the note specified on the right hand side of the slash. The note on the right hand side may be part of the chord specified on the left hand side, or it may be a completely unrelated note. All you have to do is play this note below the regular chord.

So to illustrate my point A/E would be A Major chord, with the E note played below it like so.



If you have been paying close attention on the last page and this one you would notice that this is in fact the second inversion of A (with an extra E added on top). If you don't understand this, don't worry, it's just a bit of unimportant musical theory.

Dm/C would be the D minor chord played with a C below it like this.



And so on for any chord. There's nothing tricky about this, it is very common on chord sheets and guitar tabature as a way of specifying the exact notes that should be played to

get the same sound as the performer was getting. So now when you see symbols like C/E or G7/A you will know exactly what to do!

## Advanced Chords

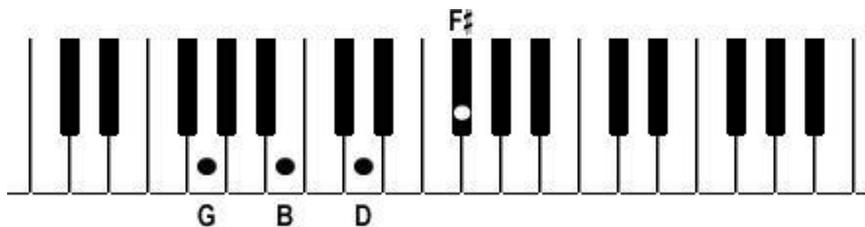
Dont be fooled by the title here, there is nothing more complicated about the chords I am about to show you from the ones you already know. These chords are just *different* thats all. I'm showing you these chords because they are also quite common in popular music and as such, come up quite often on chord sheets you may find on the internet. Once you learn these, even more songs will open up to you!

### Major 7th

If you've been following the pages in order then you would already have come across the major 7th chord in Under the bridge and Imagine. The major 7th chord is commonly denoted as Gmaj7, Amaj7, Bmaj7 etc. Its quite simple to play

**The Major 7th consists of an interval of 4 half tones followed by an interval of 3 half tones followed by an interval of 4 half tones.**

Suppose we wanted to work out the Gmaj7 chord we would take the following steps



G major 7th chord

Find the root note G, count up 4 half tones to get B, count up 3 half tones to get D, count up 4 half tones to get F#. Giving you the Gmaj7 chord.

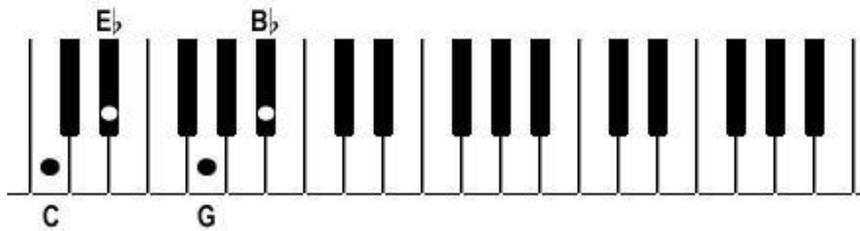
Please take care to notice that the Gmaj7 is different from the G7 chord which has notes G B D and F. The musical guru's who came up with this stuff are really out to confuse us!

### Minor 7th

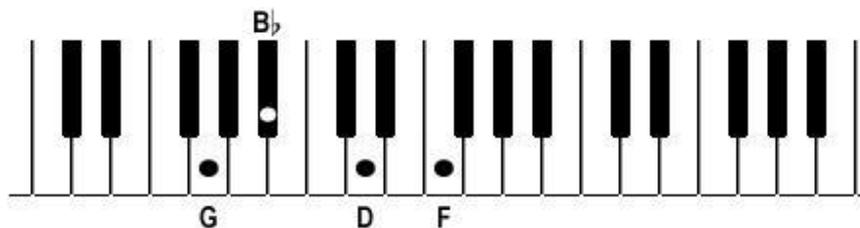
Just as the major 7th chord is very similar to the regular major chord, the minor 7th chord is very similar to the regular minor chord. In a chord sheet the minor 7th chord would be denoted as Cm7 Gm7 Am7 etc.

**The minor 7th chord consists of an interval of 3 half tones followed by an interval of 4 half tones followed by an interval of 3 half tones.**

So here are some minor 7th chords make sure you understand how to work out the notes they contain. The process is exactly the same as every other chord, just follow the formula for the minor 7th chord.



C Minor 7th chord



G Minor 7th chord

Ok if you're getting confused by all these new chords then dont worry, in the next section you can review all the chords you know to get them clear in your mind. Then you'll be ready to try out some tunes that use these new chords!

## Chord Revision

You might be getting a little confused with the five chords you now know, and its understandable, they all have similar names and similar notes so its easy to get them confused. Look at the table below and memorize it if you dont already know it to clear up any confusions about what notes belong to what chords. In the following table, X denotes any letter of the musical alphabet(ie ABCDEF or G)

Chord Name Symbol

Chord Name	Symbol	Intervals	No. Notes In Chord
XMajor	X	4th followed by a 3rd	3
X7th (Also known as dominant 7th)	X7	4th followed by a 3rd followed by a 3rd	4
XMajor 7th	Xmaj7	4th followed by a 3rd followed by a 4th	4
XMinor	Xm	3rd followed by a 4th	3

XMinor 7th	Xm7	3rd followed by a 4th followed by a 3rd	4
------------	-----	---	---

Please be careful to note the subtle differences between these chords, they are by far the most common chords used in music so you will be required to work them out when you're playing a tune. For this you need to know the intervals column which is probably best to memorize.

Heres a quick [midi](#) where I play each of the chords in a sequence so you can hear them. I will play each type of chord with a root note of C, so it'll be C, C7, Cmaj7, Cm, Cm7. Notice the distinctive sound each type of chord has.

Ok you doing fantastic! Now move on to the next section and play some tunes using the new chords you've just learnt!

### More Tunes

Now that you know most of the basic chords used in music a whole range of songs are open to you, i'll start off by giving you some of my favorites.

[Mabe I'm amazed](#) - Paul McCartney. This is a great song that uses all the chords we have learnt so far. It has a little run which basically starts on D and goes upwards hitting every note along the way. Listen to the [midi](#) to see what i mean. If you're learning this song, you really should learn by listening and copying the original rather than the midi version of it.

[Sunny Afternoon](#) - Kinks. This is a good song which makes use of a lot of [slash chords](#). Take your time to work out the chords and the melody to try and get it sounding something like the [midi](#)(original is better if you have it).

[Road Trippin'](#) - Chillie Peppers. Another good song with some cool slash chords. This is quite a good [midi](#) of the song I feel it captures quite a bit of what the guitar is playing on the original song.

[Brick](#) - Ben Folds Five. A great piano tune, this is pretty advanced, you might have to fiddle around and experiment with it to get it sounding like Ben Folds. Heres a [midi](#) which gives you the basic structure of the song and the rithym. When you get it sounding like this you'll be in a great position to sing the lyrics on top of it. For most of the song you can get away with playing the bass note of the chord in your left hand while fiddling with the notes of the chord in your right hand.

As always, start by learning the chords needed by the song, then try to spice them up mabe by playing them as inversions or by moving the chords around the keyboard. Mabe break the chord up so you play the root note first followed by the top two notes of the chord next, or in any other way you think might sound good. Remember, unlike classical

music there are no rules here, if you find something that you think sounds good then by all means play it! Dont be afraid to experiment, and whatever you do, do it confidently!

Congratulations, you are now at the position where you know all the theory and skills you need to pick up a chord sheet and put together a basic rendition of the song!

Well If you've been through this site and you have any questions you can email me at

Akhilshastri@optusnet.com.au

(My email is an image to try to stop those spam bots trawling the web and sending me thousands of emails!)

Please let me know if the links are broken or if there is something on here that you think is difficult to understand and i'll do my best to fix it up