

CHORDS

A chord is simply 3 or more (particular) notes that when played together make a 'FULL' sound.

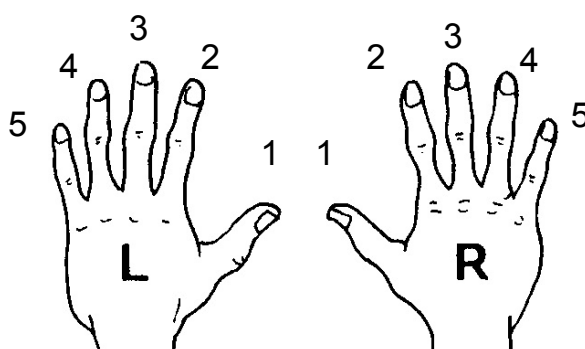
If this full sound is played rhythmically and various chords are used in a certain sequence, a nice background sound can be created for melodies or lyrics (vocals).

Let's play a very basic chord - the chord of C

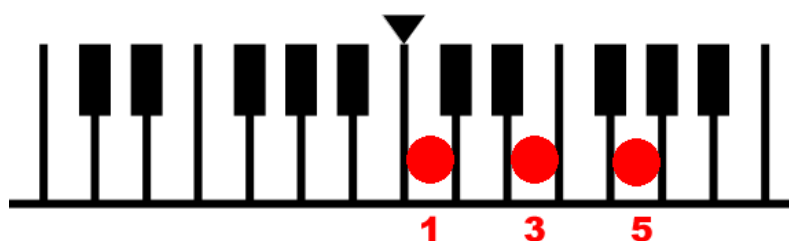
Use your right hand - THUMB - MIDDLE FINGER - SMALL FINGER.

This isn't easy to start with but TRY TRY TRY to use these fingers
It won't take long to get used to it.

For all future fingering purposes number your fingers like this.



The Chord of C
RIGHT HAND



REMEMBER play all three notes **TOGETHER - AT THE SAME TIME**

Play it over and over until your fingers get used to the shape.

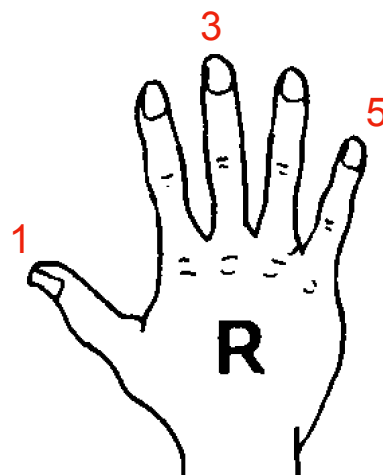
This is known as a **ROOT POSITION chord** because the note that gives the chord its name is the bottom (ROOT) note

About the FINGERING for the chords

Many beginners find it difficult using their 1st, 3rd and 5th fingers to play the basic chords.

Some find it easier to use their 1st, 2nd and 4th fingers.

So is it essential to stick to the suggested fingering?



There are a few different reasons to use the suggested fingers.

1. Beginners usually want to use what feels easier ONLY because it feels easier - but if they keep doing that they will never strengthen ALL their fingers which will be very limiting as they progress.

2. There IS a VALID reason to use your 1st, 3rd and 5th fingers for these basic root position chords. Later you are going to learn 'seventh' chords where you will be adding notes BELOW the basic chords. When you use 1 3 5 you can stretch your thumb further to the left to accommodate the added note - if you are using 1 2 4 this isn't so easy.

3. It is good to be FLEXIBLE enough to use different fingering at different times

Try using the suggested 1 3 5 for a few days - it WILL become easier.

Even just practice on a table top.

Put your hand into a 'claw' shape as if you are playing the chord of C major.

You may struggle to keep your other fingers (2nd and 4th) UP off the keys. That is perfectly normal to begin with and the more you practice the more your fingers will behave themselves :-)

A familiar tune using four VERY simple chords

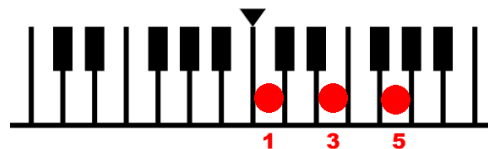
We're going to play a very familiar chord sequence using 4 simple chords.

(Don't worry about WHY a chord is the shape it is or why it is a 'major' or a 'minor' chord – just PLAY!) **PLAY FIRST ASK QUESTIONS LATER**

The 4 chords are **C**, **A minor** (written **Am**), **F** and **G**.

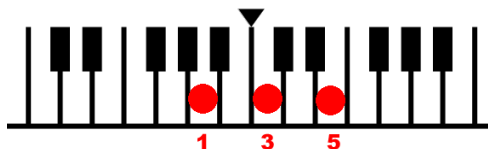
(Remember, play the three notes of each chord together - at the same time with your RIGHT HAND).

PLAY



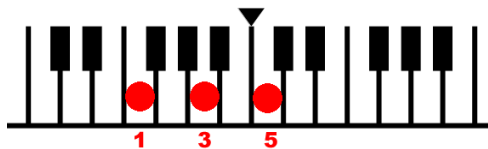
The Chord of **C**

THEN move the whole shape two notes left



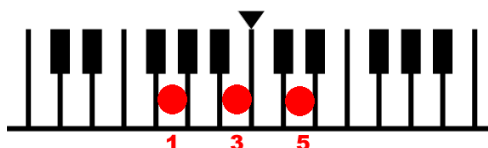
The Chord of **Am** (minor)

THEN move the whole shape two notes left



The Chord of **F**

THEN move the whole shape one note up



The Chord of **G**

Play them over and over in a repeat pattern SLOWLY.

C, Am, F, G, C, Am, F, G etc . . . (you may recognize the sequence)

These chords are in what is known as '**ROOT**' position, with the THUMB on the note that gives the chord its name – the ROOT note.

Don't give up if playing these chords hurts your hand. That's normal for a beginner and won't last forever.