



CHORDS

Three Chord Progressions - All Keys

C Major Scale



C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Chord progressions and songs that are made up of three chords are typically the *primary* chords of the key. For C major the primary chords are **C**, **F** and **G** or **G7**. This is a **I IV V** (**1 4 5**) chord progression. It's used in countless songs in a lot of different styles.

Here are the chords for the common keys of C, G, D, A, E, F, Bb, Eb, Ab and Db.

Common Rock, Folk, Country, Pop Keys

Key	I	①	IV	④	V	⑤
C	C		F		G, G7	
G	G		C		D, D7	
D	D		G		A, A7	
A	A		D		E, E7	
E	E		A		B, B7	
Key	I	①	IV	④	V	⑤

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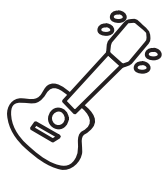
Common Jazz Keys

Key	I	①	IV	④	V	⑤
C	C		F		G, G7	
F	F		Bb		C, C7	
Bb	Bb		Eb		F, F7	
Eb	Eb		Ab		Bb, Bb7	
Ab	Ab		Db		Eb, Eb7	
Db	Db		Gb		Ab, Ab7	
G	G		C		D, D7	
Key	I	①	IV	④	V	⑤

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ALL Major 15 Keys

Key	I ①	IV ④	V ⑤
C	C	F	G, G7
F	F	Bb	C, C7
Bb	Bb	Eb	F, F7
Eb	Eb	Ab	Bb, Bb7
Ab	Ab	Db	Eb, Eb7
Db	Db	Gb	Ab, Ab7
Gb	Gb	Cb	Db, Db7
Cb	Cb	Fb	Gb, Gb7
G	G	C	D, D7
D	D	G	A, A7
A	A	D	E, E7
E	E	A	B, B7
B	B	E	F#, F#7
F#	F#	B	C#, C#7
C#	C#	F	G#, G#7
Key	I ①	IV ④	V ⑤

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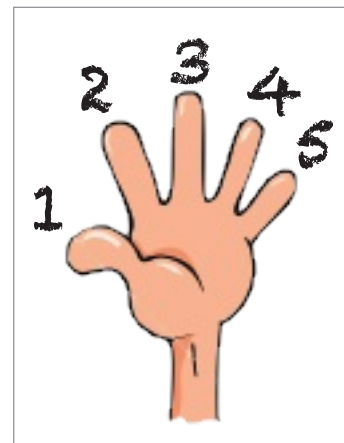




Tips for Remembering the Chords

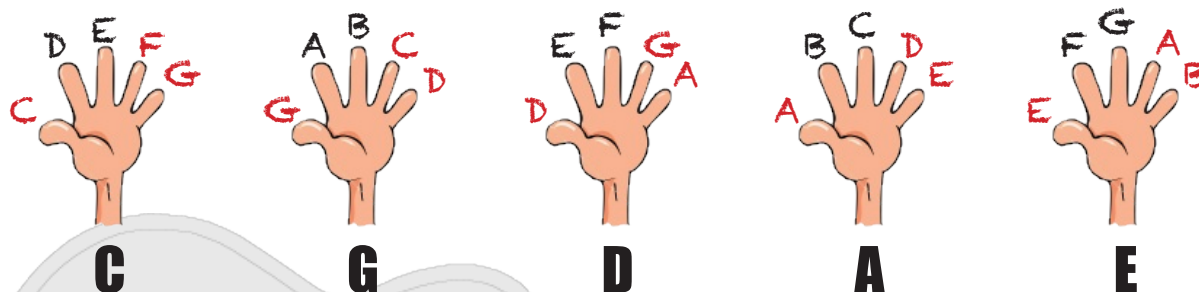
For the common keys of C, G, D, A, and E. You can simply count on your hand - **1 2 3 4 5** using the seven letters of the musical alphabet **A B C D E F G**. Simply start on the letter of the key and you will get the primary I, IV and V chords of the key.

The *primary* chords for the common keys of C, G, D, A, and E are ALL natural notes – no sharp or flats in their names.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
G	A	B	C	D	A	F
D	E	E	G	A	B	C
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
E	F	G	A	B	C	D

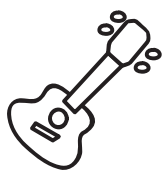
For the musicians among us with a bit musical knowledge you might recognize that only the C example is actually the correct names of the notes for that major scale. The G, D, A, and E keys are missing the correct spelling for some of the other notes. An example for the key of D, the correct spelling is D E F# G A B C#. As you see you still get the correct I, IV and V answers, the D, G and A. For the purpose of getting to the primary I, IV and V chords the correct scale spelling didn't matter. And, that is why this only works for the common keys of C, G, D, A and E.



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Over time you'll be able to do this without actually counting on your fingers.

C# and Cb

Turns out that C# and Cb are also easy to remember. Just sharp or flat *every* letter.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cb	Db	Eb	Fb	Gb	Ab	Bb

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C#	D#	E#	F#	G#	A#	B#

Granted not common keys but still easy to remember based off of the common key of C.

Memorize your major scales. They are one of the primary scales used and contain a wealth of music information. From a thorough understanding of the major scales you can derive a lot from the scales for your chords, derived scales, progressions, songs and much more.

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