

Building Block No. 5: Capturing the Comfortable Connection Between Chords **Chord Inversions**

Chord Playing:


Have you played several major and minor chords in a row by now?
Did you notice something a bit awkward when going from one chord to another?
Are you wondering how to make your left hand chord playing sound smoother?
This lesson will give you the answer. Read on....

Inversions:

All chords can be played with different arrangements of their notes.
Remember, specific notes make each chord, and these notes come from the scales.

The number of notes in a chord tells you how many ways you can play them.
Since you know how to play major and minor triads, you can play each chord in three ways.
These are called: **Root Position - First Inversion - Second Inversion**

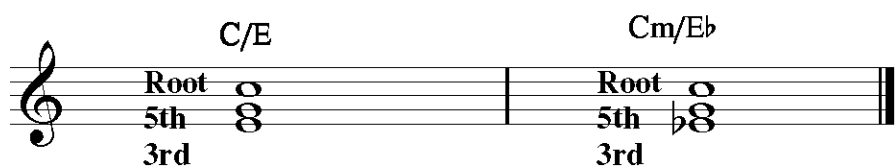
Root Position



The diagram shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff is for C major, with notes C (Root), E (3rd), and G (5th) on the bottom three lines. The second staff is for C minor, with notes C (Root), E-flat (3rd), and G (5th) on the bottom three lines. Labels 'Cmajor' and 'Cminor' are above the staves. A box on the right contains the following text:

Root Position: 5th on the top 3rd in the middle Root on the bottom
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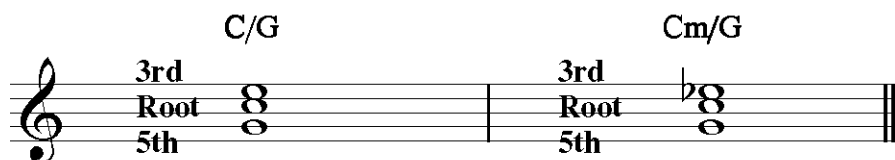
First Inversion



The diagram shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff is for C/E, with notes E (Root), G (3rd), and C (5th) on the bottom three lines. The second staff is for Cm/Eb, with notes Eb (Root), G (3rd), and C (5th) on the bottom three lines. Labels 'C/E' and 'Cm/Eb' are above the staves. A box on the right contains the following text:

First Inversion: Root on the top 5th in the middle 3rd on the bottom
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Second Inversion



The diagram shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff is for C/G, with notes G (3rd), C (Root), and E (5th) on the bottom three lines. The second staff is for Cm/G, with notes G (3rd), Eb (Root), and C (5th) on the bottom three lines. Labels 'C/G' and 'Cm/G' are above the staves. A box on the right contains the following text:

Second Inversion: 3rd on the top Root in the middle 5th on the bottom

Now that you know three ways to play each chord, you will be able to make your left hand chord playing sound much smoother, because you know how to **capture the comfortable connection between chords.**