

Piano Chord Chart.

All 12 major and minor chords on the keys, how to build any chord, inversions and 7th chords.

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CHORDS & HARMONY

Major Chords

All 12 major chords in root position. From the root, count 4 semitones up to the middle note, then 3 more to the top note.

C

C E G

D♭ or C♯

D♭ F A♭

D

D F♯ A

E♭

E♭ G B♭

E

E G♯ B

F

F A C

F♯ or G♭

F♯ A♯ C♯

G

G B D

A♭

A♭ C E♭

A

A C♯ E

B♭

B♭ D F

B

B D♯ F♯

Coloured dot: the root, the note the chord is named after.
Right hand: fingers 1, 3 and 5. Left hand: 5, 3 and 1.

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Minor Chords

All 12 minor chords in root position. From the root, count 3 semitones up to the middle note, then 4 more to the top note.

Cm

C E♭ G

C♯m

C♯ E G♯

Dm

D F A

E♭m or D♯m

E♭ G♭ B♭

Em

E G B

Fm

F A♭ C

F♯m

F♯ A C♯

Gm

G B♭ D

G♯m or A♭m

G♯ B D♯

Am

A C E

B♭m

B♭ D♭ F

Bm

B D F♯

Coloured dot: the root, the note the chord is named after.
To turn any major chord minor, lower its middle note by a semitone.

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How to Build Any Chord

Start on any key and count semitones up, black keys included. The two gaps decide the chord.

Major C

4 + 3

C E G

Minor Cm

3 + 4

C E♭ G

Diminished C°

3 + 3

C E♭ G♭

Augmented C+

4 + 4

C E G♯

Numbers are semitones between neighbouring notes. Shown on C.

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Chord Inversions

The same three notes with a different one at the bottom. Inversions keep your hand close to home when the chords change.

C

Root position · C E G

C/E

1st inversion · E G C

C/G

2nd inversion · G C E

Coloured dot: the root, the note the chord is named after.

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Seventh Chords

A triad with one more note on top, a 3rd above the 5th. Shown on C.

Cmaj7

Major 7th · C E G B

C7

Dominant 7th · C E G B♭

Cm7

Minor 7th · C E♭ G B♭

Cm7♭5

Half-diminished · C E♭ G♭ B♭

Coloured dot: the root, the note the chord is named after.

CHORDS & HARMONY

Chords on the Keys

The six main chords of C major, all on white keys. A root-position chord skips one white key between each note.

C I · C E G

Dm ii · D F A

Em iii · E G B

F IV · F A C

G V · G B D

Am vi · A C E

Coloured dot: the root, the note the chord is named after.

EXPRESSION & TEMPO

The Pedals

Most pianos have two or three pedals, pressed with the feet.

Right

Sustain (damper) pedal

Lets the notes ring on after you lift your fingers. The one you'll use most.

Middle

Sostenuto pedal

Holds only the notes already down when you press it. On many upright pianos it's a practice mute instead.

Left

Soft pedal (una corda)

Makes the sound softer and gentler.

Under the music, Ped. means press the sustain pedal and ✱ means lift it. Some music uses a line instead: down at the start, up at the end.



“Music is the universal language of mankind.”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Outre-Mer, 1835

PRACTICE TIP

Practise slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.

