

CHORD NUMBERS AND LETTERS

All chord numbers and letters are taken from the scale. The Roman numerals are the number of each step of the scale. (See Scale Degrees.) Capital Roman numerals mean major or the chord is a major chord. Lower-case Roman numerals mean minor. (See Definitions.) Practice the triads in root position up the major scale. When you want to harmonize a melody, your first choice of chords will be the one (I), four (IV), and the five (V). These are the primary chords. For variety and color, we use the other chords.

TRIADS IN ROOT POSITION UP THE MAJOR SCALE

C	C E G	I	Major	C ^M	or	C
D	d f a	ii	minor	d ^m		
E	e g b	iii	minor	e ^m		
F	F A C	IV	Major	F ^M	or	F
G	G B D	V	Major	G ^M	or	G
A	a c e	vi	minor	a ^m		
B	b d f	vii ^o	diminished	b ^o	or	b ^{dim}