

CHORDS



Learning the Major and Minor Triads (three note chords)

It's a lot easier to learn your triads in groups than it is to learn them one by one. Luckily there are white and black notes on the piano that give us great pictures of how each chord is created. Take time to study each of these groups while playing them on the piano.

Major Triad Groups

White White White

C = C E G

F = F A C

G = G B D

White Black White

D = D F# A

E = E G# B

A = A C# E

Black White Black (Oreo)

Db = Db F Ab

Eb = Eb G Bb

Ab = Ab C Eb

Black Black Black

F# = F# A# C# -or- Gb = Gb Bb Db

*While playing the piano notice how both of these chords play the same notes.

Black White White

Bb = Bb D F

White Black Black

B = B D# F#

Minor Triad Groups

White White White

Dm = D F A

Em = E G B

Am = A C E

White Black White

Cm = C Eb G

Fm = F Ab C

Gm = G Bb D

Black White Black (Oreo)

C#m = C# E G#

F#m = F# A C#

G#m = G# B D# -or- Abm = Ab Cb Eb

*While playing the piano notice how both of these chords play the same notes.

**Also notice that Cb is really just the note "B". You have to call it Cb because of music theory.

Black Black Black

Ebm = Eb Gb Bb

Black Black White

Bbm = Bb Db F

White White Black

Bm = B D F#