

Music

How can chord sequences be like a puzzle?

Miss Charatan



Quick quiz:

Work out all of these triads and play them on a keyboard (real or virtual)

G

E

C



C major

D minor

E minor

F major

G major

A minor



Labelling notes of a chord

1. What is the root of G major?
2. What is the third of A minor?
3. What note is the 5th of F major and the third of A minor?

5th	G	A	B	C	D	E
3rd	E	F	G	A	B	C
Root	C	D	E	F	G	A
Chord name	C major	D minor	E minor	F major	G major	A minor

Stretch: Which note tells us whether a chord is major or minor? Which are the two most important notes of the chord?



Ear training - what note is missing?

1. C major	C	E	G
2. A minor	A	C	E
3. G major	G	B	D
4. F major	F	A	C
5. D minor	D	F	A
6. E minor	E	G	B



Test yourself

Below are some inversions. Can you spot what triads they are?

These are all **primary triads** so are **major**.

Example: *F, D, A* to get in the right pattern becomes **D, F, A = D minor**

1. Which triad is made up of the notes E, G, C?
2. Which triad is made up of the notes C, F, A?
3. Which triad is made up of the notes G, E, B?



Why do we use inversions?

Let's look at the chord sequence from 'Shotgun' - C - Am - F- G

What's the difference? Do you notice about which fingers stay still?

No inversions

G	E	C	D
E	C	A	B
C	A	F	G

Inversions

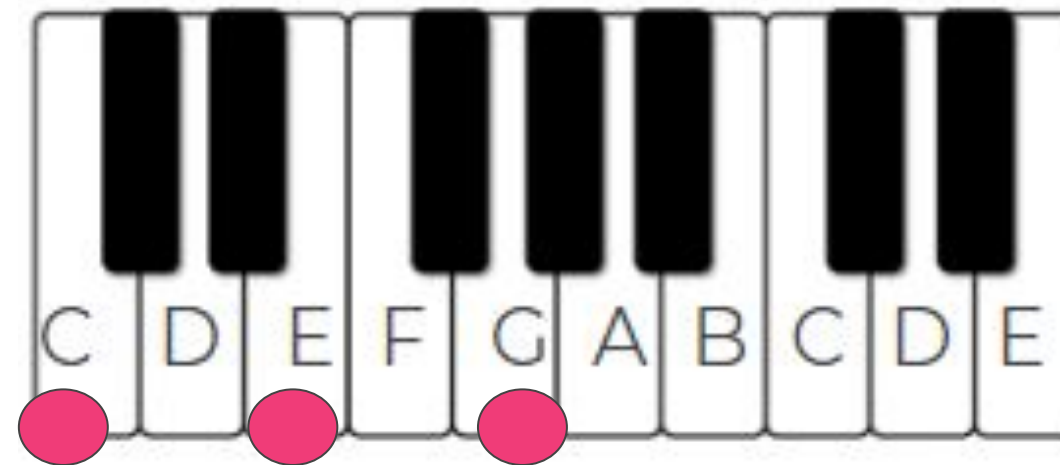
G	A	A	B
E	E	F	G
C	C	C	D



Playing inversions

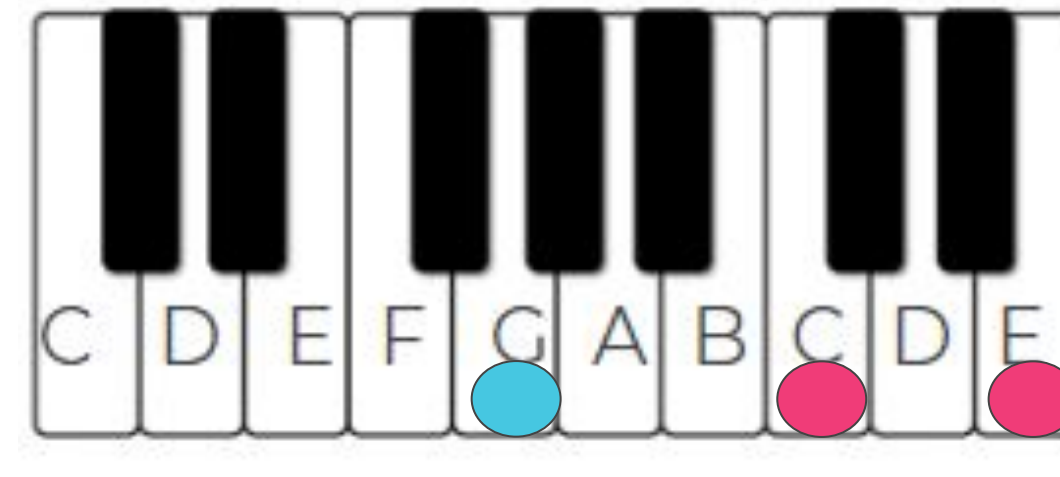
Play these chords without inversions, then with inversions. Extension: come up with as many ways as possible to move from G - C.

G major - C major (no inversions)



What are the two benefits of playing inversions?

G major - C major (inversions)



Playing inversions

Play these chords without inversions, then with inversions. Extension: come up with as many ways as possible to move from G - C.

E minor - G major (no inversions)



What are the two benefits of playing inversions?

E minor - G major (inversions)



Quick quiz:

Create as many inversions of a G major triad as you can

D

B

G



Voice leading

We can think of the notes of the chords as individual voices or parts in a choir. Let's sing the parts now. Are they easier or difficult to sing?



Voice leading

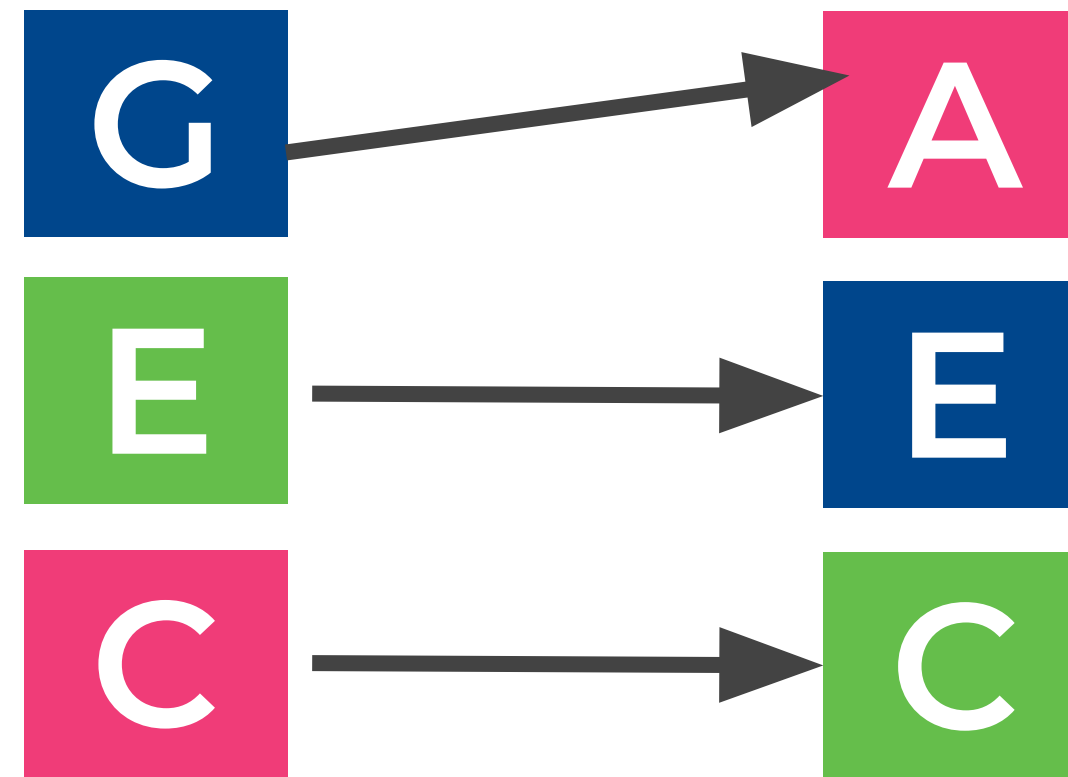
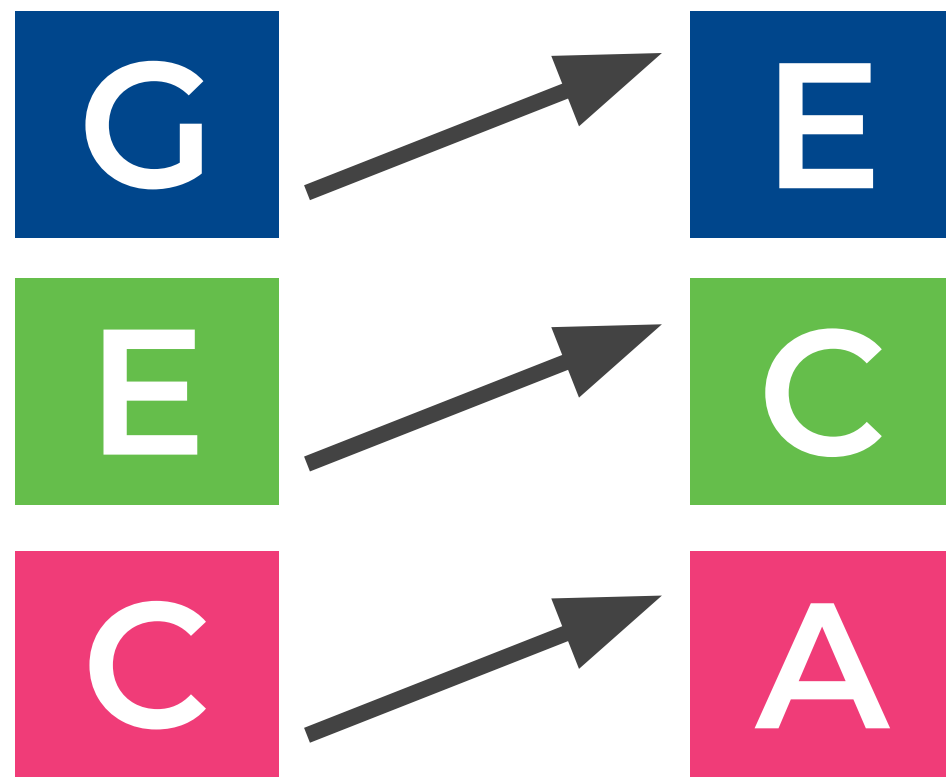
Let's now put the chords in inversion like we did earlier. Let's sing the parts again. What is the difference? Is it easier or more difficult to sing?

G	A	A	B
E	E	F	G
C	C	C	D



Voice leading

Voice leading is the way the individual 'voices' (pitches) **move from chord to chord**. The best voice leading is when all the individual voices move **smoothly**. Bad voice leading is when there are strange leaps.

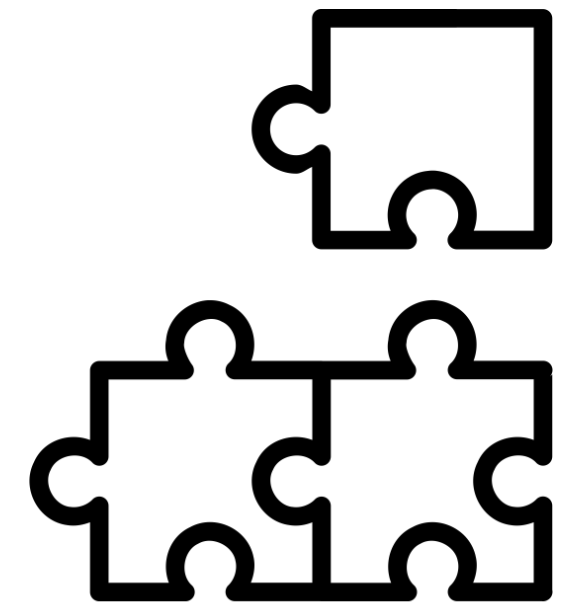


Voice leading puzzle

Change from the first chord to the second chord by only moving one note each time.

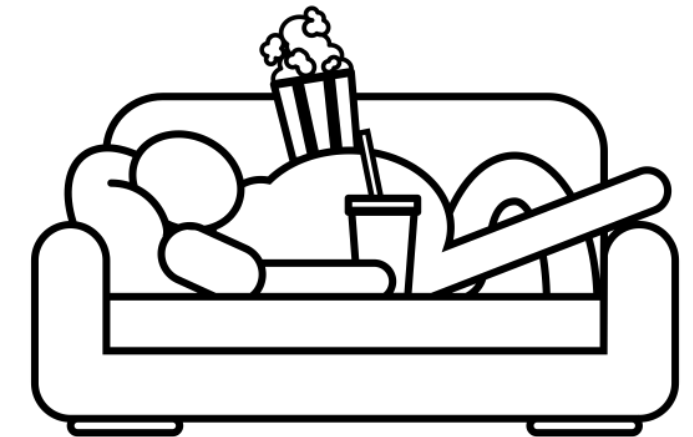
1. **A minor - C major**
2. **F major - D minor**
3. **E minor - G major**
4. **F major - A minor**

A minor - C major



Top tips for voice leading

1. What are the **fewest** notes I need to move from one chord to another?
2. Can I **sing** each part easily? (bottom, middle, top)
3. Is it **easy** to play?
4. Does it **sound good**?



Chord progressions in inversions - Shotgun

Chords

C	Am	F	G
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Task: work out the best inversions for this chord sequence using our top tips.
Stretch: try with your own chord sequence.



Chord progressions in inversions - your own

Chords

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G	A	B	C	D	E	F
E	F	G	A	B	C	D
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii

Task: Create your own chord sequence in C major.



Chord progressions in inversions - your own

Chords

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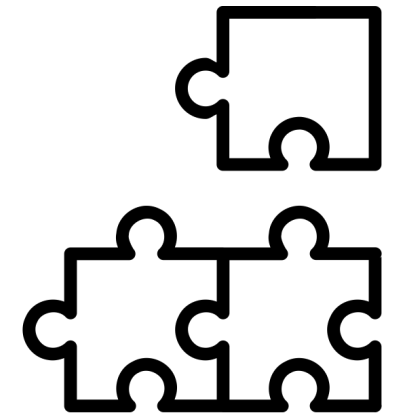


Task: Decide and write down the inversions so you can play/sing it smoothly










Our key question:

How can chord sequences be like a puzzle?



Inversion, easier, fewest, voice learning, root, triad, 5th

- A  has 3 notes: a , 3rd and .
- An  is when you put these notes in a different order.
- We use inversions to make the chords  to play.
- We need to think carefully about  - the way the individual voices move from chord to chord.
- When we choose inversions, we need to work out the puzzle: what are the  notes we need to change to get to the next chord?



References

- Slide [2, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 17] - [The Noun Project] - [Joeleen Moy] - [Piano]
- Slide [14] - [The noun project] - [Path lord] - [Joy face happy with earphones]
- Slide [14] - [The noun project] - [Andres Arenas] - [Lazy]
- Slide [10, 11, 14] - [The noun project] - [HeadsOfBirds] - [Choir]
- Slide [13, 18] - [The noun project] - [Chameleon Design] - [Puzzle]

