Basic Chords - Triads in 12 scales

Before going to 7 chords, altered chords and extensions It is essential to understand the basics and fill in any gaps you may have.

Once you grasp the idea how the scale relates to chords, It will help you transfer the theory into all 12 keys.

Basic chords - major scale

Beginning with C major scale

 C D E F G A B C

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

Although every note has a letter we are going to use the number system to learn the scale degrees. Every note from the scale has a number. Using half steps and whole steps to build the major scale

Major scale W W H W WW H

On every degree of the scale we can build a basic chord - a triad - 3 tones played simultaneously

1st degree C major



2nd degree D minor



3rd degree E minor



4th degree F major



5th degree G major



6th degree A minor



7th degree B diminished



These are **diatonic chords** in other words we use only the notes from the C major scale.

the **pattern** to play the chords in all 12 keys.

- 1-4-5 are major chords
- 2-3-6 are minor chords
- 7 is diminished

inversions

Inversion is whenever we play a chord from the 3rd or 5th note. Every chord has 2 inversions.

MINOR SCALE

The simple formula to play a minor scale is: 1-2-3b-4-5-6b-7b-1 The half and whole steps formula: Minor scale W HWWHWW

The chords that we build on **A minor scale**

1 A minor



2 B diminished



3 C major



4 D minor



5 E minor



6 F major



7 G major



Here's the pattern to remember the chords

1-4-5 are minor chords3-6-7 are major chords2 is diminished chord

Other basic chords

1 **Diminished** chord - We can build a diminished chord from a minor chord by flatting the 5.



2. Augmented chord.

We can build an Augmented chord from a major chord by raising the 5.



3 **Suspended** chords .We can build a suspended chord from a major chord:

Sus2 the 3th degree is going a step down



Sus4 the 3th degree is going a half step up

