



Quick Start Guide to Learning Chords With Color

Mobile Edition

This quick start guide is intended to be springboard to get you started learning and playing songs quickly with chords. This PDF file is © by Bright Idea Music All Rights Reserved. The author gives permission for it to be freely distributed and or copied with the stipulation that it is unaltered and kept intact. For the complete Color Score Professional Chord Learning System go to:

www.learncolorpiano.com.

The Most Important thing to do first.....

Get Started!

Welcome! This quick started guide to Color Score Professional Chord Learning System is just that. But, only you know what skill level you're currently at. To help you get going, here's the quick start table. Just click on the learning section for your starting point and proceed from there.

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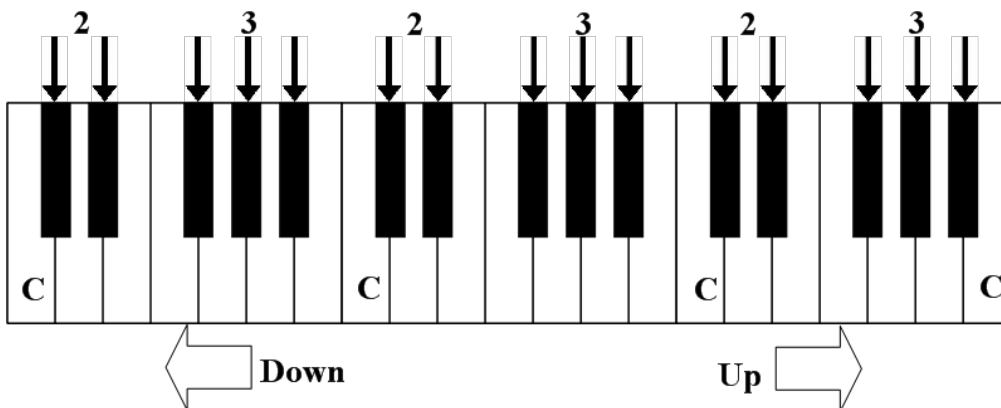
About the Color Score Quick Start Guide

This book explains topics related on how to play piano & keyboard using the Color Score Professional Chord Method Manual. It contains illustrations and videos of easy to understand concepts. Each chapter contains references to the appropriate chapters/pages in the Color Score Manual, so you can refer to those pages to learn more about the topic being covered.

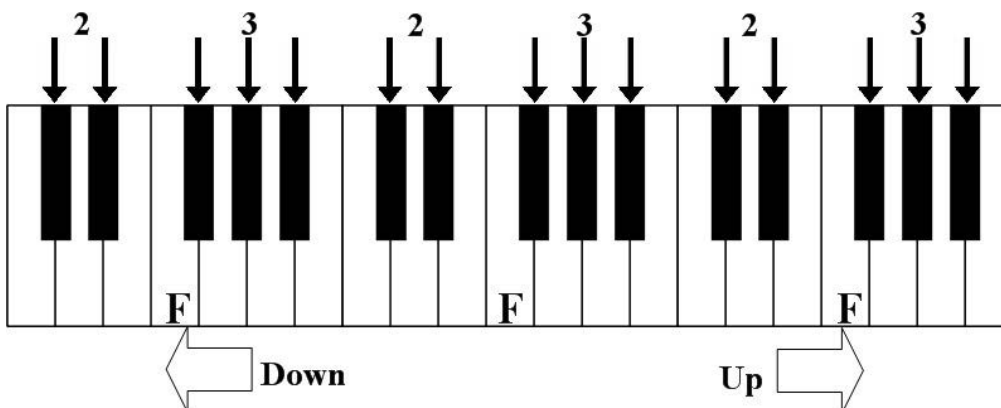
1 “MAKE A NOTE OF THAT WOULD YOU?” Learning the notes on the keyboard

When you look at a keyboard in the context of how many keys you have in front of you, it can seem daunting. Fortunately, it’s simply 12 different notes that repeat themselves. It’s a simple pattern of notes. There’s a series of white keys with patterns of two and three black keys.

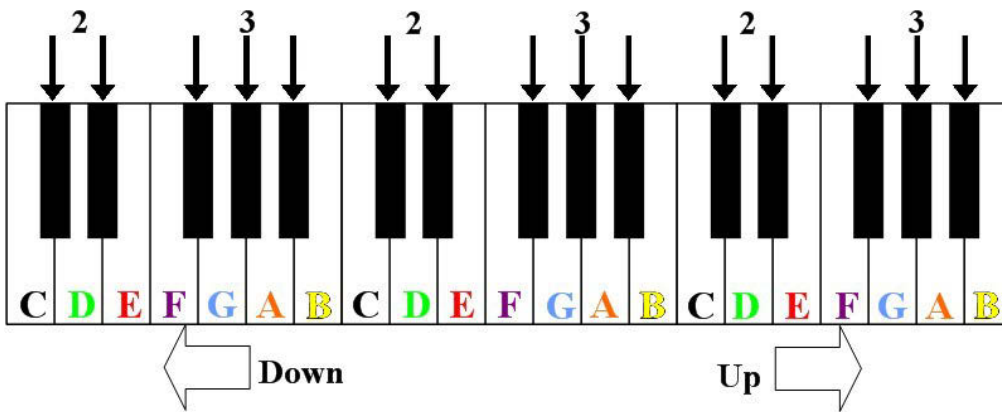
The notes are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet: A, B, C, D, E, F & G. The easiest note to learn is C. If you look to the left of each two black key patterns, you will find a C. There are as many C’s on the keyboard as there are these patterns.



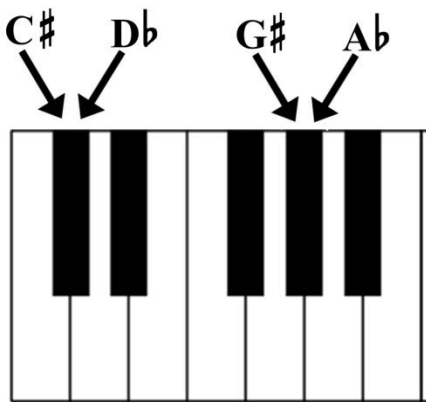
If you look to the left of each three black key patterns, you will find an F. There are as many F’s on the keyboard as there are these patterns.



Use C and F as reference points when you are beginning to learn note names on the keyboard. Simply count up or down from C or F and fill in the gaps to find the other lettered note names on the keys.



The black keys are known as sharps and flats. To make a note sharp you simply move one key to the right of the note and to make it flat, you simply move one key to the left.



“Don’t use inserts behind the keys or stickers to help you find note names. They’ll keep you from learning your keyboard notes by becoming a crutch”

It’s as simple as that. Here’s the great news: You don’t have to use the reference points once you get familiar and start playing on the keys. They will become second nature to you!

Visit www.learncolorpiano.com for worksheets and more learning resources to help you learn to sound like a professional at the keyboard.

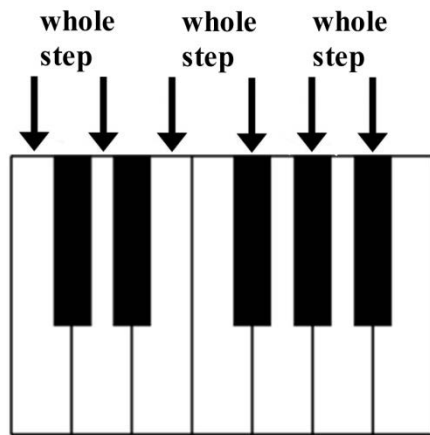
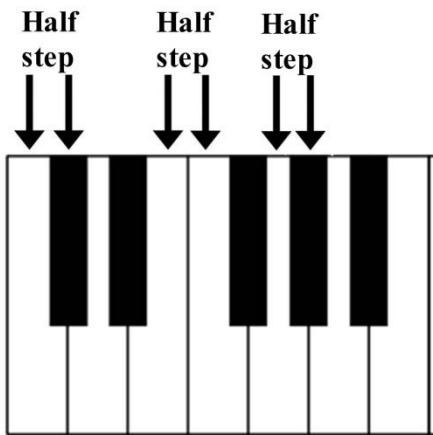
Here's the video on how to learn the keyboard notes. *(Because this document is optimized for mobile devices, the video images are linked to the videos online)*



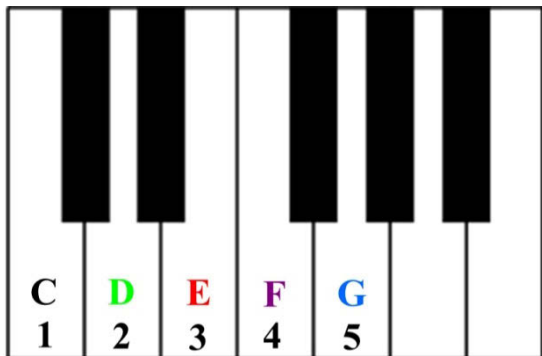
Learn chords, progressions and more @ www.learncolorpiano.com

2 “CHORDALLY YOURS” Learn the 12 Major Chords and change your musical life

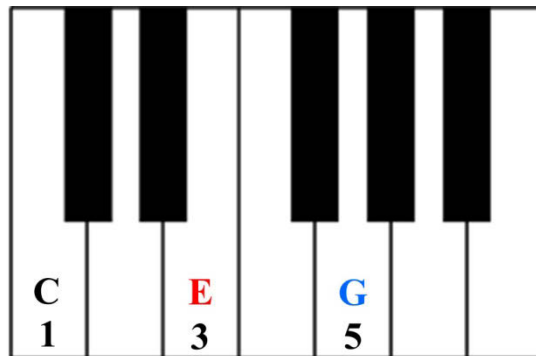
A chord is defined as three or more notes that are played simultaneously. Triads are the most common and are built from a pattern of whole steps and half steps. Half steps are the distance between any two notes that are right next to each other. A whole step is two half steps added together.



You can build a Major chord with the formula of a “tetrachord plus” pattern. You simply choose any note and follow the pattern as illustrated. By selecting the 1, 3, and 5 you now have a Major Chord. This formula will work to find any one of the 12 Major Chords.



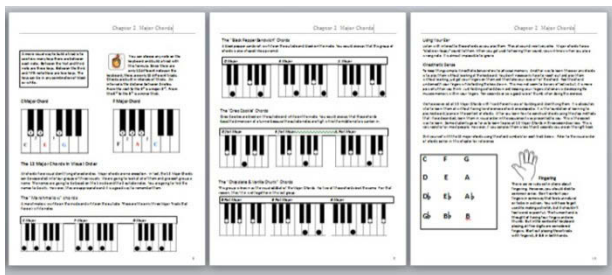
C Major Chord



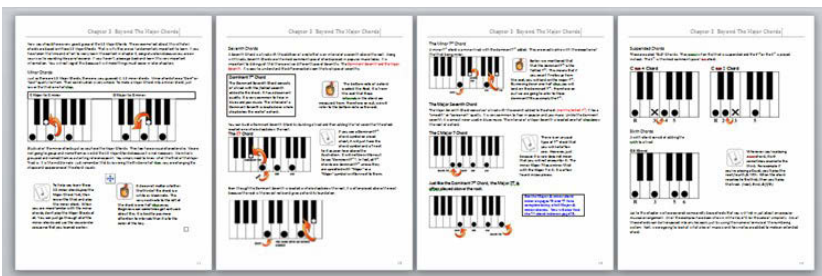
This video will show how easy it is to build any Major Chord.



See Chapter 2 of the Color Score Manual for the illustration of all 12 Major Chords in visual order. They're presented in four groups of three to simplify and learn them as fast as possible.



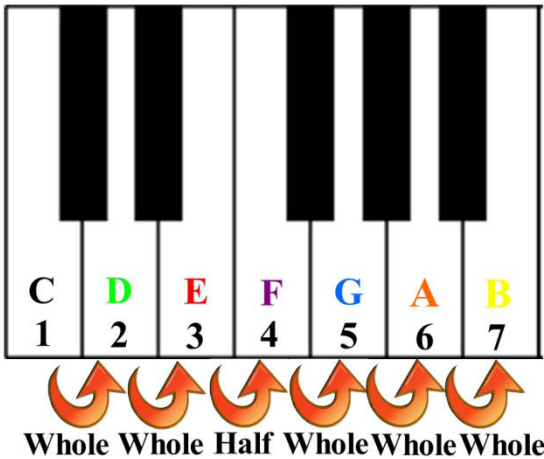
Chapter 3 will take you beyond the Major Chords into minor, 7th chords, suspended chords and beyond. You'll learn the actual theory of how to form these chords with the clear and easy to understand illustrations.



Order The Color Score Professional Chord Manual @ www.learncolorpiano.com You can sound like a professional at the keyboard with a simple understanding of the mechanics of music. This learning system is unlike any other because it's completely designed to be a visual and colorful learning experience to keep you engaged in learning how to be a musician at the keyboard. It's the richest and most colorful musical experience you could have learning how to play.

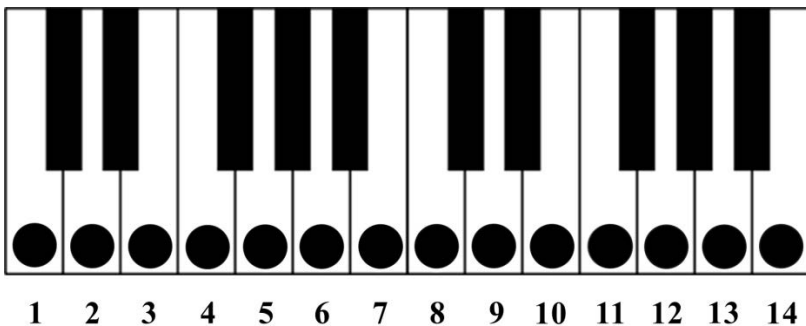
3 “WHY BREAK INTO A SONG WHEN YOU HAVE THE KEY?” Unlocking Major Keys

A key of music in its simplest definition, is a pattern of seven different notes. This pattern is the same as the “tetrachord plus” pattern you learned in chapter 2. The only difference is that two more whole steps are added to the pattern.

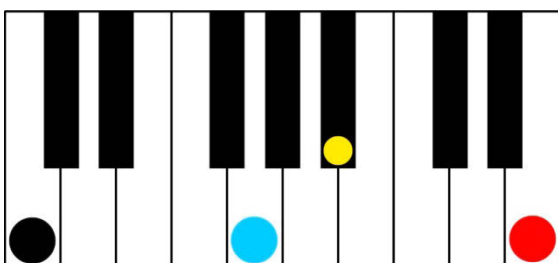


“Remember the concept of half and whole steps from chapter 2? You can find any Major key of music on the keyboard by using this pattern.”

Each note in a key of music is numbered. This is known as the “numbering system”. It’s been around for ages and was popularized by jazz and gospel musicians. It simplifies the process of understanding chords and keys of music.



An infinite number of chords are possible just by the selection of tones. Chords can be taken even farther by rearranging those numbers and giving them a more open sound. This is known as chord voicings.



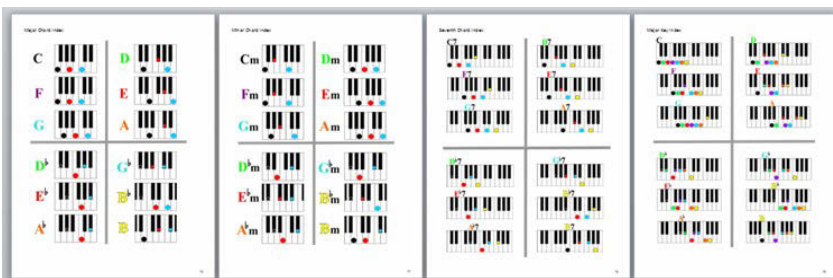
This video answers the question: What is a key of music and how does it work?



“It’s the simplest concepts once learned, that can take you to the highest level of being a musician at the keyboard.”

You can go beyond simple Major and minor chords by understanding the building blocks of chords which are just constructed from Major keys of music.

The Major key index on page 79 of the Color Score Manual illustrates all Major keys of music in the Color Score format. Each numbered note in the key has a corresponding color. This makes for visual continuity in all 12 Major keys thus making them easier to learn. You’ll also find Major, minor, seventh, inverted chords, chord inversions and more in the index section of the manual.



Order The Color Score Professional Chord Manual @ www.learncolorpiano.com You can sound like a professional at the keyboard with a simple understanding of the mechanics of music. This learning system is unlike any other because it’s completely designed to be a visual and colorful learning experience to keep you engaged in learning how to be a musician at the keyboard. It’s the richest and most colorful musical experience you could have learning how to play.

4 “THINGS AREN’T ALWAYS BLACK AND WHITE” Adding colors to learn and create

Traditional note reading has always been fundamental at the keyboard. Unfortunately that has always been the number one reason for students to become discouraged and quit learning altogether. However, it is necessary to have a visual system of notating music. Video is an excellent learning tool but it’s transitory.

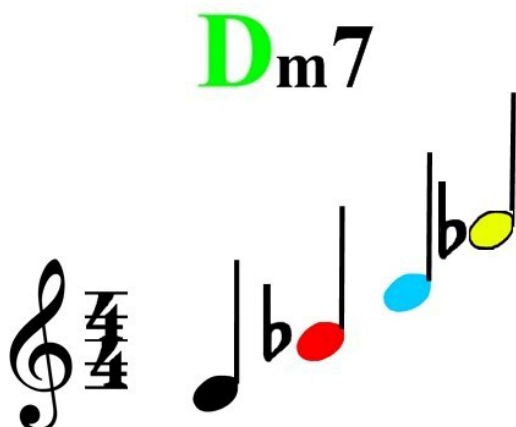
In other words, when you’re trying to learn to play a song or chord progression the video progresses along and it’s hard to keep up. You need a visual representation of the music that is stationary. This visual representation should not be a replacement for written music but a learning tool to learn to play music.

Reading notes in standard music notation is relative to where they are on the staff. The illustration below shows that if you crop the notes from the staff, there is no way to tell which note is which. The point is, this medium is not visually stimulating.

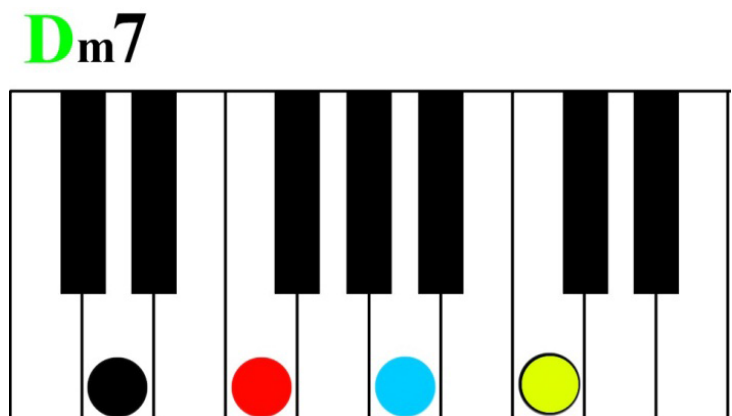


Now consider music notation that is in full in color and uses two formats to illustrate chords and melodies.

Note Shots



Key Shots



Don't underestimate the simplicity of colored notes and dots on piano keys. Even though it's simple enough for a child to grasp this concept, the medium of color is quite a necessity in a grown up world. One of the most obvious examples of color is one of public safety on our highways. Traffic lights are among the most critical uses of color to regulate the flow of traffic and save lives. It's the immediate recognition of a simple color that dictates to us to proceed through, slow down, or stop at an intersection.

What if, like written music, there was no color but instead the traffic lights were white and the relative position of the light dictated the appropriate action of the driver. Top light-stop, Middle light-slow down, bottom light-go. That would be confusing and dangerous for drivers. It's the visual stimulation of color that draws an immediate response.



The Numbering System in living color

The number system you saw in the last chapter comes to life when a color is assigned to each number in the key making it easier to understand and remember the building blocks of chords.



The Color Score Concept

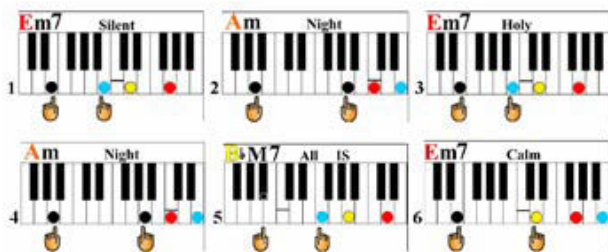
When you take the numbering system and color code it, you now have a vibrant visual musical tool that makes it fun and easy to learn any song or chord pattern. There's only 12 Major keys of music and the colors are exactly the same in all 12 keys. The only difference is the sequence has a different combination of black and white keys.



Another way to look at this concept is that it's a simple formula that utilizes color to make it easier to learn. The Color Score Professional Chord Manual includes seven different songs that are designed to be learning tools to springboard an absolute beginner to playing professional sounding music in a short time. They're in Keyshot *and* Noteshot formats. These formats are simply notational devices that are simpler to read than standard music notation.

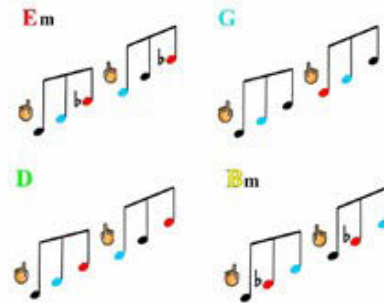
Keyshots

Silent Night



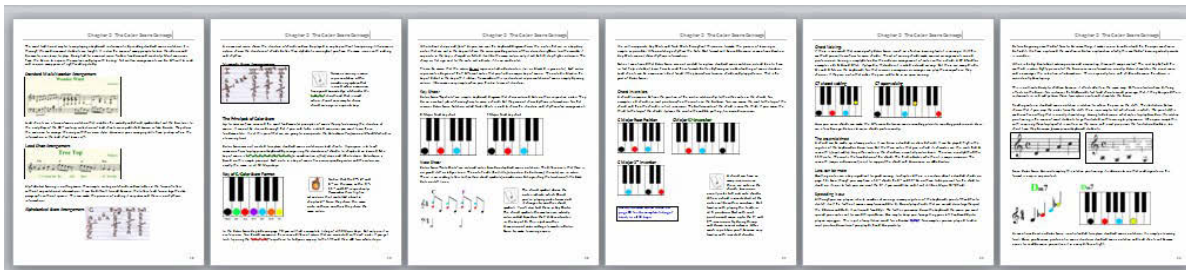
Noteshots

What Child is This- Argeggios



Just as a traffic light triggers an immediate response, the format of the colored notes triggers the response you've trained into your fingers. The result is the ability to play professional sounding songs in far less time than traditional music instruction.

Chapter 5 of the Color Score Manual covers has more details about the Color Score Concept as well as details about sharps, flats, chord inversions and color tones.

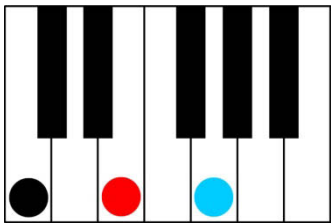


5 “YOU’RE BREAKING UP!” Using Arpeggios: broken chords

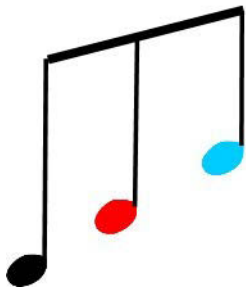
How do you spell “fancy Italian word for broken chord?” A.R.P.E.G.G.I.O. Also known as broken chords, arpeggios are simply playing chord notes one at a time. This is a simple way to make an arrangement stand out even in the midst of playing chords the way you normally would.

Simple Triads

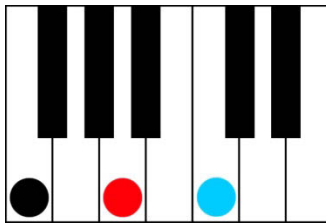
C Major



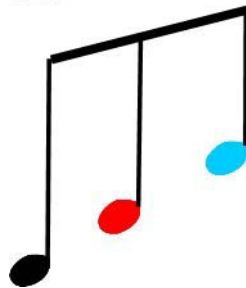
C



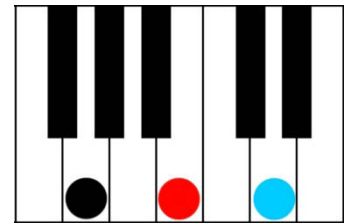
F Major



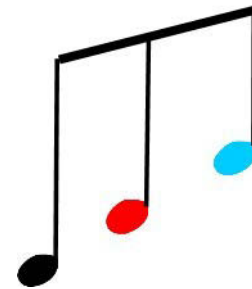
F



G Major



G



Arpeggios add rhythmic qualities to simple chords. Notes can be played in any order: up, down, alternated, etc. Chapter 10 in the Color Score Manual covers arpeggios and includes pieces specifically teaching this concept.

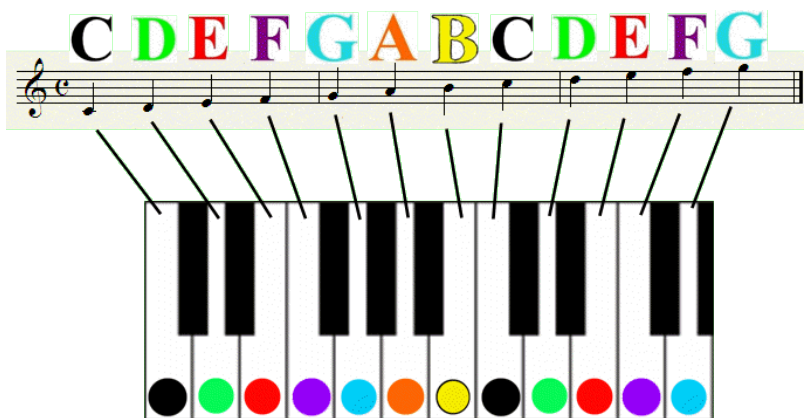


6 “CHAINED MELODY” Tying the melody into your song

Melody is the most recognizable element in a song. Melodies are often sung in popular music but can be played by a solo instrument or be included with harmony on the keyboard. When playing melody along with chords, there’s one fundamental rule: *The melody notes must be on top of the chords.* The note that is at the highest pitch you’re playing will ring out above all other notes and be easier to hear.

Melodies can be single notes or have notes underneath them. You’ll often find chord tones underneath the melody. This fattens and really polishes it up for a professional sound. This is known as harmonizing a melody.

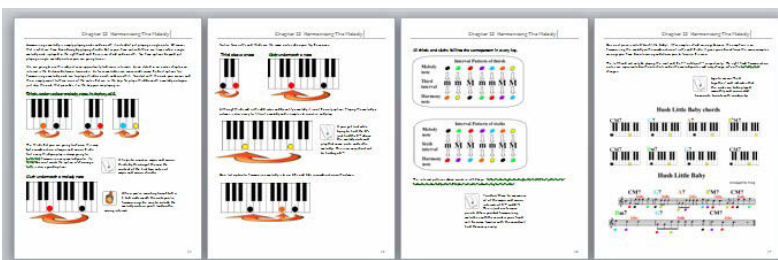
How to read a written melody at a glance



A simple harmonization of “Joy to the world”

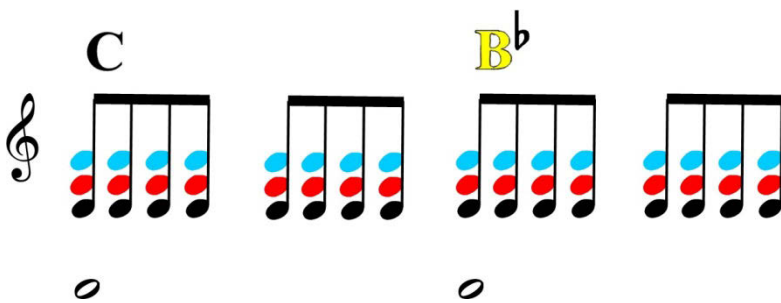


Chapter 12 in Color Score Manual covers will instruct you on how to play from lead sheets and Chapter 13 teaches a richly illustrated way to harmonize melodies.



7 “FINGER DANCE”” Getting up to speed with rhythm

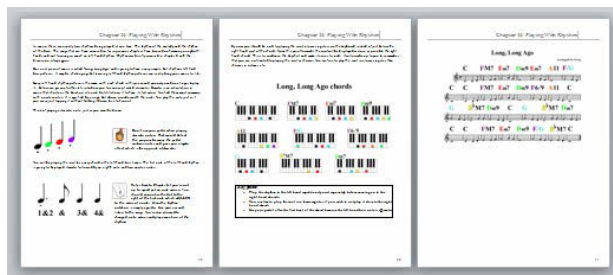
It’s often thought that the left hand has the lion share of playing rhythm at the keyboard. Although that may be the case if the keyboard player has the job of the whole “orchestra” But both hands can play rhythm also which allows more freedom and often no need to play the melody if a vocalist or other instrumentals is present.



A simple Major triad rhythm pattern



Chapter 14 in the Color Score Manual includes a learning piece that teaches putting a rhythmic bass line with a simple song with full chords in the right hand for a professional sounding song that’s fun to learn.



“Some songs are so rhythmically driven that you can play the rhythm only and ignore the melody.”

The Color Reps at the end of the Color Score Manual is loaded with rhythmic patterns that can be used with any song or piece of music.



8 “I WANNA BE A CHORD SYMBOL” Just a few characters that tell you a lot

Chord symbols will tell you at a glance what the structure of a piece of music looks like. Chord symbols didn't start out in written music but they've grown in popularity over the last several years. You'll find them at the beginning of the measures in a piece of music but anywhere the chord changes. The chord letter indicates the menu from where you draw chord notes and all information to the right of the chord indicates how it is modified or altered.

“Almost all written popular music today has chord symbols.”

Breakdown of the chord symbol

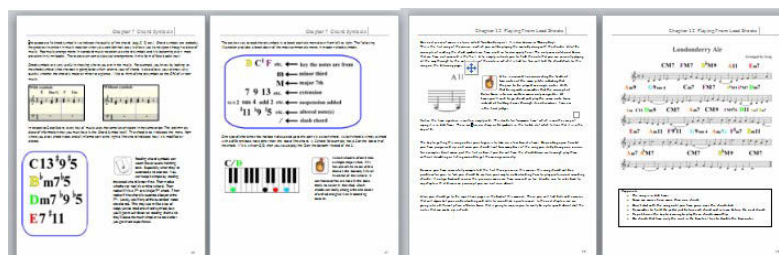
B C# F etc. ← key the notes are from
m ← minor third
M ← major 7th
7 9 13 etc. ← extension
SUS 2 sus 4 add 2 etc. ← suspension added
#11 b9 #5 etc. ← altered note(s)
/ ← slash chord



The Color Score Manual treats chord symbols in the same manner as other musical elements. Each of the seven letters has a different color making it quicker and easier to identify when learning a new song.



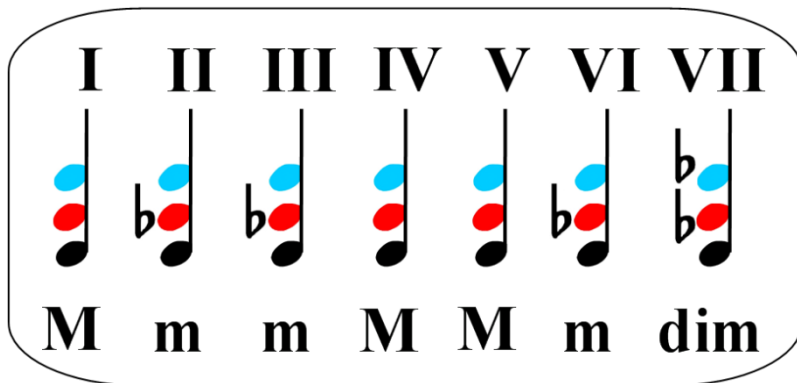
Chapter 7 in the Color Score Manual discusses chord symbols and Chapter 12 cover playing from lead sheets.



9 “ALL IN THE FAMILY” Diatonic Harmony

Diatonic is one of those words that make the concept about it sound complicated. It simply means “within in the key”. As you learned in an earlier chapter, a key of music is a pattern of 7 different notes. Each one of those notes has a corresponding chord. That makes a total of 7 different chords. They’re a combination of Major and minor chords.

The Diatonic Pattern of All Major Keys

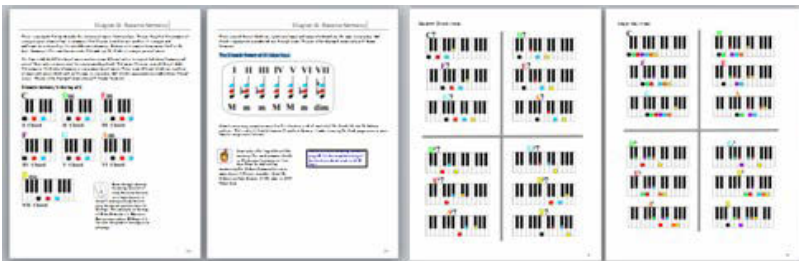


I II III IV V VI VII

M m m M M m dim



The diatonic chords are the most used chord in a song or piece of music. It doesn’t mean that that there can’t be other chords that are not native to the key but they are the most common. Chapter 16 covers diatonic harmony and the diatonic harmony index on page 81 of the Color Score Manual has Keyshots of diatonic harmony in all 12 Major keys.



10 “ACCEPT ~~NO~~ SUBSTITUTIONS” Using chord substitutions

One of the key aspects of sounding like a pro at the keyboard is the ability to substitute rich sounding chords for those that are commonly used in a given song. The simplest song can be jazzed up with the richest and lushest of chords to create a harmony that actually redefines the song.

Oh Holy Night-standard chords

Oh Holy Night

Traditional



O ho - ly night _____ The stars are bright -ly shin - ing

Oh Holy Night-chord substitutions

Oh Holy Night

Traditional

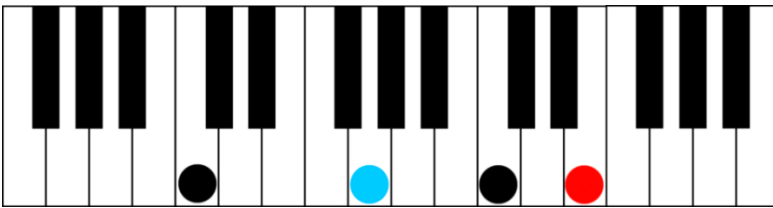


O ho - ly night _____ The stars are bright -ly shin - ing

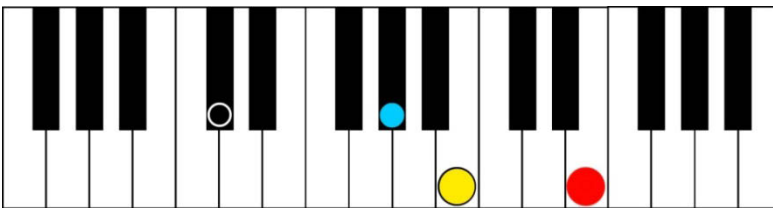
The secret to substituting chords is using common tones. That simply means that you need to look for chords that have notes in them that are common to the key you're playing in. That also means using chords that are not in the key you're playing in.

In the second bar of the first demo of “Oh holy night” the C chord is in session until bar number three. In demo number two, the D flat minor 7 chord is substituted for the C chord in second bar. So the question is: what tones in D flat minor seven are common to the key of C? (the key the song is in)

C chord (in bar 1 thru 2)



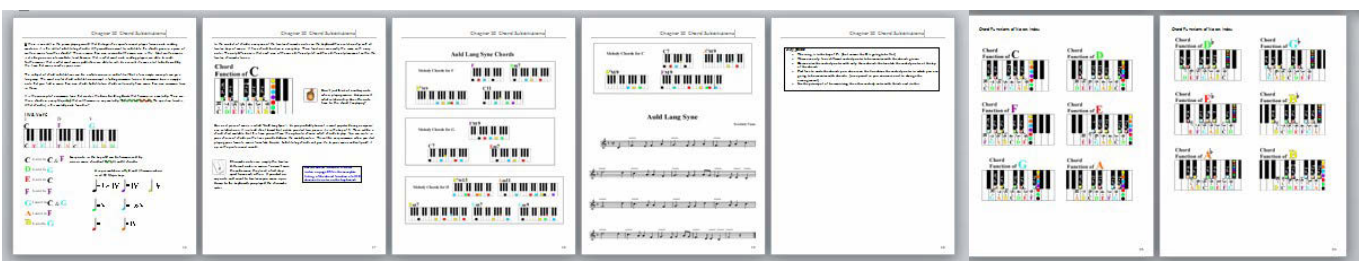
D flat minor 7 chord (substitute chord in bar 2)



“When you substitute simple chords with richer harmonies, you actually redefine a song and create an unexpected surprise for listeners.”



Chapter 18 in the Color Score Manual covers harmonizing the easiest way to understand how to harmonize a melody and the chord function of notes index on page 85 has a complete listing of the chord functions of notes in all 12 keys.



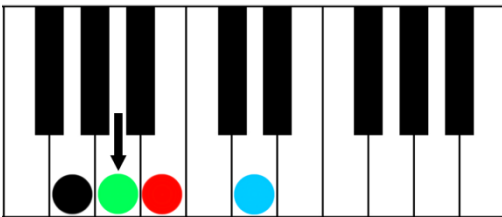
11 “DECORATE MY LIFE” Using ornaments in music

A lot of people will rave over a good steak but is the steak alone good enough? What about the seasoning, steak sauce, butter, or baked potato? Or, when you think about a Christmas tree, is just the tree alone enough? I think you know where I’m going with this. It’s the trimmings, add-ons, or as some call them in music, ornaments that add the real flavor.

One of the simplest ornaments you can add to a piece of music is the “grace note”. A grace note is a very short note often played before a longer note or with a chord.

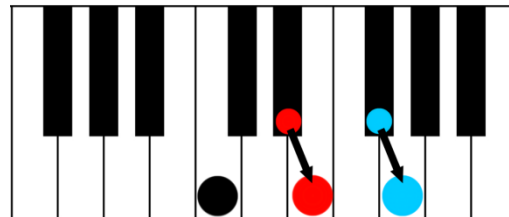
G Major triad with A as a grace notes

G



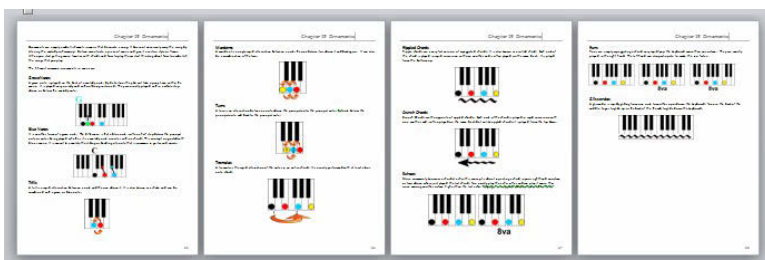
C Major triad with E&G flat as blue notes

C



“Ornaments in music are often subtle but have a big impact and can define your playing style.”

Chapter 19 in the Color Score Manual covers 11 of the most commonly used ornaments in music.



12 “NO WORK AND ALL PLAY” Playing your own music

If there's one single reason to put every piece of the puzzle together we've covered so far, it's so you can play your own music. Pop, rock, jazz, gospel, folk, country, hip hop, Latin or any combination of the above can be played with a professional sound at the keyboard...as long as you have the tools to put it together.

As the author of this course, I believe the tools are all present. What is necessary from the self-instructed student is understanding and the repetition necessary to develop the skills needed in your hands.

Just to Recap

If you're a beginner, start with the “Absolute Beginners Chapter” (p.4) in the Color Score Manual. You'll build a foundation as a keyboard player that will last you the rest of your musical life. Next, be sure to learn your 12 Major Chords (p.7). This may not seem important but it's *critical* that you learn your Major Chords if you're going to be a professional sounding player.

Chapter 3 is going to take you beyond the Major Chords into minor, 6th, 7th, and suspended chords. Chapter 4 covers Major keys of music, the Color Score take on the numbering system and how it leads into extended and altered chords.



The “Color Score Concept” (p.22) explains the tools in this course you'll use to learn how play like a professional the fastest way possible. After covering note values and chord symbols in Chapters 6 and 7, you're ready to start playing your first colors. These are musical pieces specifically designed to teach you how to play professional chords.

The first musical piece “America” (p.28) will have you playing pro sounding chords with a simple pulse rhythm of four beats per measure. The next piece “What child is this” (p.33) teaches how to play arpeggiated patterns. After learning about playing melodies in Chapter 11, Chapter 12 covers playing from lead sheets with the next piece “Londonderry Air” (p.40). You'll learn how to harmonize a melody instead of just playing single melody notes in Chapter 13 and Chapter 14 teaches you how to play “Long, Long Ago” (p.51) with a simple left hand rhythm that's easy and fun.

Learning Articulation and Dynamics (p.52) will help you to add dimension to your playing. Diatonic Harmony (p.54) is about learning the family of chords that you'll find in every key. Chord Substitutions (p.56) starts out with the 3 most commonly used chords in any song and then covers the "Chord Functions of Notes" concept to explain how every note has a relationship with all twelve Major keys of music. Ornaments (p.65) will teach you to add style and flavor to your music.

Moving On

Be sure to complete the musical pieces in this course. They're designed to teach you how to play songs with professional sounding chords. You don't have to master every concept in this course before you start playing your own music.

The first step I recommend to playing your own music is getting your hands on lead sheets or a collection of lead sheets known as fake books. These are simple notational arrangements with a melody line and chord symbols. The blank template of Keyshots and chord charts in the back of the Color Score Manual will allow you to create your own chord arrangements with the tools that you've acquired from this course.



Youtube is full of song tutorials of every kind from the very good to the very bad. Even though these tutorials are from players at every level, having a good foundation in chords allows you to read between the lines and find something that you can learn from. As I said before, video is an excellent learning tool but it's transitory meaning that it continues to play while you're trying to learn a piece of music. You need a stationary notational tool that's simulative and colorful to make the learning process easy and fun. That's what Color Score is all about.

You are going to have a fun learning experience with this course so as I stated at the beginning of this book: Get Started!

About the Color Score Quick Start Guide

This book explains topics related on how to play piano & keyboard using the Color Score Professional Chord Method Manual. It contains illustrations and videos of easy to understand concepts. Each chapter contains references to the appropriate chapters/pages in the Color Score Manual, so you can refer to those pages to learn more about the topic being covered.

I hope you found this Quick Start Guide of The Color Score Professional Chord Method helpful as it is intended to get you started playing professional sounding chords and arrangements for any song or style of music. Visit www.learncolorpiano.com for download of the complete method .

The Color Score Method (in case you missed it in chapter 4)



Get Started Playing Today! www.learncolorpiano.com