





KEYS, SCALES AND CHORDS / THE DIFFERENCE AND IMPORTANCE

TERMINOLOGY	WRITTEN EXAMPLES	WHY KNOW THIS?
<p>These terms are often confusing or referred to incorrectly.</p>  <h2>KEY</h2> <p>The key defines what scale you will be working with. It represents a collection of notes and chords. The key is defined by the key signature and the first note of the scale (key note).</p>	<p>Below are some examples of how this would be written or referred to. This isn't a complete list but highlights some differences.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A B C# D Eb F G</p>	<p>Confidently communicate with your band and improve your playing.</p> <p>The key determines how high or low the song is.</p> <p>Tells you what group of chords you will be using.</p> <p>Helps you flow between songs in related or same key.</p> <p>Eg: The song is in the key of A.</p>
 <h2>SCALE</h2> <p>The notes available. A major and minor scale (most common) is made up of 8 consecutive notes. The scale defines which notes can be played in the scale and which can't.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAJOR MINOR CHROMATIC AND MORE...</p>	<p>Helps with working out melodies, harmonies and riffs.</p> <p>Helps form more complex chords.</p> <p>Helps with improvising and spontaneous playing.</p> <p>Eg: A major scale.</p>
 <h2>NOTES</h2> <p>The individual notes within the scale. A melody is a sequence of single notes. A riff is a sequence of single notes. A scale is a sequential set of single notes. Notes can be referred to as a number (notes within a scale) or as a letter-A - G. Some may also have # or b showing a sharp or flat.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5... A B C D...</p>	<p>Being familiar with notes in a scale Helps with working out melodies, harmonies and riffs.</p> <p>Helps form more complex chords.</p> <p>Eg: In the key of G, the notes for the guitar riff are ABABG or 23231.</p>
 <h2>CHORDS</h2> <p>A chord is played when two or more notes are played at the same time. The key of the song and the notes of a melody dictate which chords could be played. There are hundreds of variations one could play depending on style of music.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">G C/E Am Bb6 F#</p>	<p>Chords form the basis of songs and harmonies.</p> <p>Knowing chord relationships helps learn and play songs.</p> <p>Helps with improvising and spontaneous playing.</p> <p>Helps with songs writing.</p> <p>Eg: The chords of the chorus are C F G Am</p>

KEYS, SCALES AND CHORDS /

HOW THEY ALL WORK.

USE THIS CHART BELOW TO SEE WHICH NOTES ARE PRESENT IN THE SCALE OF THE KEY YOU'RE IN. THOSE NOTES HELP IDENTIFY WHICH CHORDS YOU'LL USE AND WHICH NOTES TO PLAY TO FORM THE CHORDS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A
Bb/A#	C	D	E ^b	F	G	A	B ^b
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#	B
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
C#/D ^b	D#	F	F#	G#	A#	B#	C#
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
E ^b /D#	F	G	A ^b	B ^b	C	D	E ^b
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#	E
F	G	A	B ^b	C	D	E	F
F#/G ^b	G#	A#	B	C#	D#	E#	F#
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
A ^b /G#	B ^b	C	D ^b	E ^b	F	G	A ^b



POSITION OR "DEGREE" OF NOTE IN THE SCALE.



KEY NOTE ("TONIC")

The first note in the scale is also the "key".
I.e.: In the key of A the first note in the scale is A.



"PRIMARY TRIADS" MAJOR CHORDS USED IN THAT KEY - 1, 4 & 5

In the key of A, the major chords used would be A, D and E.



NOTES THAT MAKE UP THE CHORD

Chords are formed when more than one note is played at the same time. Major chords have notes 1, 3 and 5.



MINOR CHORDS USED IN THAT KEY - 2, 3 and 6

Minor chords have relative minor chords. In the key of A, the minor chords used would be F#m, Bm and C#m.

DON'T TRIP OVER YOUR CHORDS!

The major chords that go together in a key are shown by notes 1, 4 and 5 in the scale. These are known as the primary triads.

For example, in the KEY of A, the first note in the scale is A, the fourth note is D. The fifth note is E. This tells us the chords we're mostly likely to play are A, D and E. Along with their relative minor chords.

To play a chord, you must play more than one note at the same time. A major chord is made up of notes 1, 3 and 5 in the scale.

If the chord is D major, the notes played together are D (1), F# (3) and A (5). If the chord is A, that is A (1), C# (3) and E (5).

TAKE NOTE...

Notes can move around in scales but not within a chord.

D can be the 4th degree (note) of the scale in the key of A but D is also note 5 in the key of G.

Chords, however, are always made up of the same notes, regardless of the key you're in. D major chord is always made up of notes D, F# and A. Whichever key you're in. This is true for all chords.

The notes you need for your chords are present in the keys that use those chords. For example, the notes D, F# and A are all present in the A scale, the G scale and the D scale. And the D major chord is present in those keys.

CHORDS QUICK REFERENCE /

CHORD AND CHORD COMBINATION QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE.

IN EVERY KEY THERE ARE SPECIFIC CHORDS THAT WORK FOR THAT KEY. CHORDS 1, 4 AND 5 ALONG WITH THEIR RELATIVE MINOR CHORDS, 6, 2 AND 3. KNOWING THESE RELATIONSHIPS WILL MAKE LEARNING, PLAYING AND WRITING A SONG MUCH EASIER.

MAJOR CHORDS IN THE KEY

MINOR CHORDS IN THE KEY

KEY	1 TONIC	4 SUBDOMINANT	5 DOMINANT	6 SUBMEDIANT	2 SUPERTONIC	3 MEDIANT
C	C	F	G	Am	Dm	Em
D	D	G	A	Bm	Em	F#m
E	E	A	B	C#m	F#m	Gm
F	F	Bb	C	Dm	Gm	Am
G	G	C	D	Em	Am	Bm
A	A	D	E	F#m	Bm	C#m
B	B	E	F#	G#m	C#m	D#m

RELATIVE MINOR CHORDS

MAJOR	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
RELATIVE MINOR	F#m	G#m	Am	Bm	C#m	Dm	Em

Why are these related?

The complicated answer has to do with key signatures sharing the same amount of sharps or flats. A simpler explanation is that the major chord shares the same notes as the minor chord. For example the chord of C has the notes C E and G in. Notes 1, 3 and 5 in the scale of C. The Am chord consists of A C E.

GET TO KNOW YOUR RELATIVES

Get to know which chords go with which. It'll make playing so much easier. Don't get weighed down by the theory of it, unless you want to. These chord relationships are always the same, so once you know them, you know them.

TAKE IT UP A LEVEL. KNOW THE NUMBERS.

1 4 5 6 2 3

Knowing the number (degree) of the notes in scale and chords is very useful for transposing a song to different keys on the fly. If a song is in C, the C is 1. F would be 4 and G would be 5. Am would be 6, Dm would be 2.

Changing the key to A, 1 would be A, 4 would be D and 5 would be E, 6 would be F#, 2 would be Bm.

Changing the key to E, 1 would be E, 4 would be A and 5 would be B, 6 would be C#m and 2 would be F#m.



CHORDS QUICK REFERENCE /

CHORD AND CHORD COMBINATION QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE.

BASIC CHORDS ARE KNOWN AS TRIADS. THREE NOTES PLAYED AT THE SAME TIME THAT FORM THE CHORD. FOR MAJOR CHORDS, IN THE SCALE THESE WOULD BE NOTES 1, 3 AND 5. FOR MINOR CHORDS, YOU FLATTEN THE 3RD NOTE. THERE ARE MANY CHORDS, DEPENDING ON STYLE (JAZZ, ROCK ETC). HERE ARE SOME COMMON CHORDS IN CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP.

CHORD	NOTES OF THE CHORD			CHORD	NOTES OF THE CHORD		
C	C	E	G	C#	C#	F	G#
D	D	F#	A	Eb	Eb	G	Bb
E	E	G#	B	F#	F#	A#	C#
F	F	A	C	Ab	Ab	C	Eb
G	G	B	D	Bb	Bb	D	F
A	A	C#	E				
B	B	D#	F#				

CHORD	NOTES OF THE CHORD			CHORD	NOTES OF THE CHORD		
Cm	C	Eb	G	C#m	C#	E	G#
Dm	D	F	A	Ebm	Eb	Gb	Bb
Em	E	G	B	F#m	F#	A	C#
Fm	F	Ab	C	G#m	G#	B	Eb
Gm	G	Bb	D				
Am	A	C	E				
Bm	B	D	F#				

MORE COMMON CHORDS

You're likely to come across these common chords on songs. They're written to show the number of the note you need to include in the chord. For example, C6 includes the 6th note of the scale. Another reason to be familiar with the numbers! Chords can include two, three or more notes. At least include the root (1) and one other, depending on the chord.

Aug stands for augmented and Dim stands for diminished. We move the 5th note up or down a semitone.

CHORD	NOTES OF THE CHORD		
Sus (Csus4)	C	F	G
Maj7 (Cmaj7)	C	E	G B
7 (C7)	C	E	G Bb
6 (C6)	C	E	A
2 (C2)	C	D	G
Dim (Cdim)	C	Eb	Gb
Aug (Caug)	C	E	G#

CHORDS QUICK REFERENCE /

CHORD AND CHORD COMBINATION QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE.

THE NOTES OF A CHORD CAN BE SHUFFLED AROUND. WHERE THE BOTTOM NOTE IS NOT THE ROOT (1) BUT 3 OR 5. THESE ARE KNOWN AS INVERSIONS. THE CHORD IS STILL C OR A OR D BUT IT SOUNDS DIFFERENT. INVERSIONS ARE HELPFUL WORKING WITH VARIOUS MELODIES AND BASS NOTES.

CHORD	FIRST INVERSION		
C	E	G	C
D	F#	A	D
E	G#	B	E
F	A	C	F
G	B	D	G
A	C#	E	A
B	D#	F#	B

CHORD	SECOND INVERSION		
C	G	C	E
D	A	D	F#
E	B	E	G#
F	C	F	A
G	D	G	B
A	E	A	C#
B	F#	B	D#

BASS NOTES

Sometimes chords are written with the bass notes included. This gives the chord a different sound. The choice of bass note is often just for variation or because it better suits the melody or movement of the music. In these cases, we include a / to separate the chord from the bass note, for example, C/E - C with an E bass note. The bass note is usually one of the three notes that make up the chord but other options are possible, depending on the sound you want to achieve.

CHORD	BASS	WRITTEN
C	E	C/E
D	F#	D/F#
E	B	E/B
Fsus	C	Fsus/C

APPLICATION

EXPERIMENT AND EXPERIENCE

Whatever instrument you play, take some time to get familiar with these chords, the variations and the sounds that the inversions and bass notes help you achieve.

Get used to identifying the key of songs by recognising the chords that you see. For example, if the chart has C F and G, Am, the key of the song is C. If it has G and A and D, the key is D. The chord combinations help you identify the key if you're unsure.

TAKE IT FURTHER

For a more comprehensive list of chords, buy a chord book for your instrument. There's many to choose from. You can also explore chords within a music style like Jazz, Rock or Funk to see how chords can be grouped and used to create a particular sound.

