

Preface

Chord Symbols

Before starting this book the player must have a thorough knowledge of the 12 major scales. Play the chords in this study in all their inversions the full length of the keyboard, both in block chords and arpeggio style. After learning the chords in the key of C, proceed to do the same in all 12 keys.

7th chords

7th chords are formed using the **I, III, V, VII** notes of the scale. This study explains how to form the 7th chords on the left hand by making the root of the chord (**I**) the Bass note and making the **III, V, VII** the chord. This study also introduces you to the different degrees of the scale, or modes. You will learn that by starting the scale on the other notes of the scale, you are able to form up to seven different 7th chords.

Modes

If we start the **I, III, V, VII** sequence with the first note of the C scale, we have the Ionian mode. The chord produced is a C Maj7.

Beginning the same sequence with the second note of the scale (D) produces the Dorian mode; in this mode the **I, III, V, VII** will form a Dm7 chord. To play this chord on the left hand, D (**I**) is the Bass note and the **III, V, VII** (or F, A, C) is the chord.

The third degree of the scale is the Phrygian mode. In this mode, the **I, III, V, VII** produces an Em7 chord.

The 4th degree of the scale is the Lydian mode; the **I, III, V, VII** forms an FMaj7 chord.

The 5th degree of the scale is the Mixolydian mode; the **I, III, V, VII** forms a G7 chord.

The 6th degree or Aeolian mode forms an Am7 chord.

The 7th degree or Locrian mode forms a Bm7b5 chord.

Left Hand Fingering for Chords.

The left hand fingering for the m7 chords places the third finger on the bass note and fifth finger on the chord. For counterbass situations, place the fourth finger on the bass and the second finger on the chord.

For the M7 chords, the fifth finger is on the bass note and the second finger on the chord. In the counterbass row use the third finger on the bass note and the fifth finger on the chord.

The m7b5 fingering utilizes the third finger on the bass and the fifth on the chord. For the counterbass fingering the fourth finger is used to play the bass note and the second finger on the chord.

A good exercise to practice improvisation is to sustain the chords on the left hand while playing choice notes in the scale on the right hand. Make up little melodies by allowing your ear to be your guide. Have fun, Use your imagination.

Blue Moon- Improvisation sample

Play the chord symbols on the left hand in 4/4 guitar style accompaniment as in the "Summertime" arrangement. After playing this sample improvisation, try making your own improvisation by playing over the chord changes using the same left hand accompaniment.

Improvising over Chord Changes

These chord changes are the most common progressions -- the **II**m7 to the **V**7 to the **I** (the Dorian to the Mixolydian to the Ionian). This relates back to the page on 7th chords. Practice these chord changes two ways, first by sustaining the chords on the left hand and improvising over the changes on the right hand; then by using the 4/4 guitar style, comping on the left hand and again improvising on the right hand.