

Unit K2 - Chords



Keyboards in the Classroom

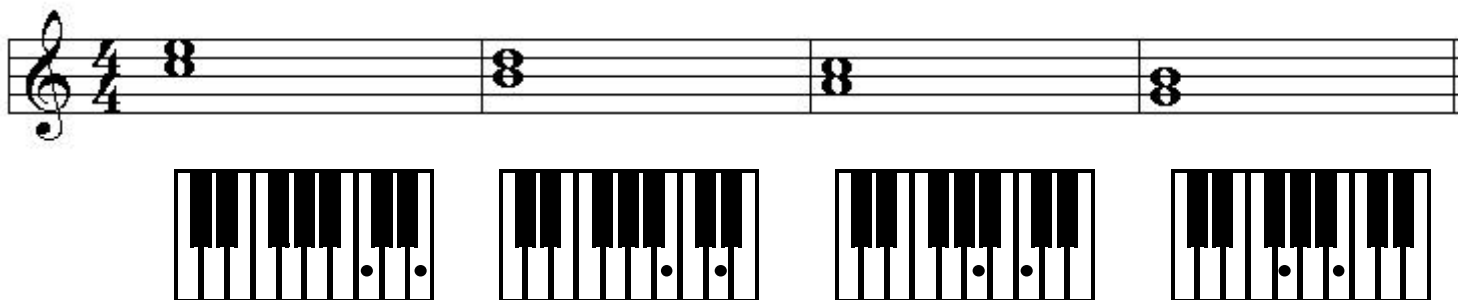
UNIT K2 - Chords

Card 1

Making up a piece of music using 2 note chords

Chords are made by playing 2 or more notes at the same time

Play these chords with 4 beats between each one. Try to keep in time with the beat.



The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. It contains four measures, each with a two-note chord marked with a circled '8'. Below the staff are four keyboard diagrams, each showing a two-note chord with dots on the keys. The first chord is C4 and E4. The second chord is C4 and G4. The third chord is C4 and B4. The fourth chord is C4 and C5.

Try to move smoothly between each chord. Try hard to keep in time with the beat.

Carry on making up a piece using 2 note chords. Here are some hints

- Try playing the chords more than once each.
- Play them in different octaves
- Use long and short notes
- Try splitting the notes of the chords up. For example on the first chord, play the C followed by the E
- Change the voice on your keyboard (not **too** often though)

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Card 2

Making up a piece of music using 3 note chords (triads)

Play these chords with 4 beats between each one. Try to keep in time with a beat.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. It contains three measures, each with a chord symbol in a box above it: 'Chord of F', 'Chord of G', and 'Chord of Am'. Each measure contains a single chord symbol (a stylized '8' shape). Below the staff are three keyboard diagrams. The first diagram shows the F chord (F4, A4, C5) with dots on the keys. The second diagram shows the G chord (G4, B4, D5) with dots on the keys. The third diagram shows the Am chord (A4, C5, E5) with dots on the keys.

Try to move smoothly between each chord. Try hard to keep in time with the beat.

Carry on making up a piece using 3 note chords. Here are some hints

- Change the rhythm (style).
- Try splitting the notes up, for example, on the F chord try playing the 3 notes one at a time.
- Try splitting the notes up and playing them backwards.
- One of you play the chord low on the keyboard and the other person plays it high.
- Try adding a bass part (low pitched) using octaves (low F followed by high F etc.)
- **ORGANISE** your music. Remember if you are not organised, your music will sound a mess!

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Card 3

Playing automatic chords

Your keyboards can play automatic chords with a rhythm (style) that you select.
Your teacher will show you how to set up your keyboard to do this.

When you play automatic chords, make sure you change chords on the beat. Count carefully!

count → 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
play → C / / / | F / / / |

This means you play a C chord and wait for 4 beats.
You then change to F and wait again for 4 beats. Try it!

Ask your teacher if you are still having problems. If you understand, try these exercises, then tick the box on the worksheet when you can play it **4 times**

1. F / / / | G / / / |
2. C / / / | G / / / |
3. C / / / | F / / / | C / / / | G / / / |
4. C / / / | Bb / / / | F / / / | G / / / | You need to find Bb for this
5. C / / / | C / / / | G / / / | F / G / |
6. C / F / | G / / / | C / F / | G / / / |
7. C / / / | F / / / | C / / / | F / G / |

Find the correct rhythm/style on your keyboard when playing these.

8. Reggae C / / / | F / / / | C / / / | G / / / |
C / / / | F / / / | C / Bb / | F / / / |
9. Swing C / / / | C / / / | C / / / | C / / / |
F / / / | F / / / | C / / / | C / / / |
G / / / | F / / / | C / / / | G / / / |
10. Waltz C / / | C / / | F / / | F / / |
(3 beats) C / / | C / / | G / / | G / / |

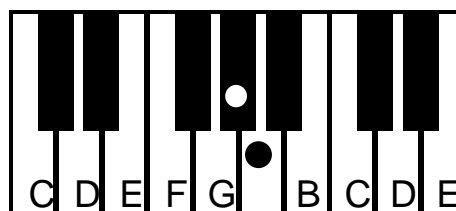
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Card 4

Playing automatic minor chords

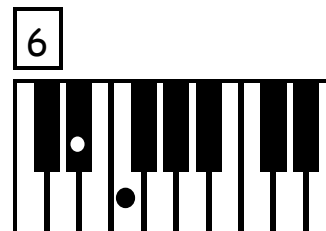
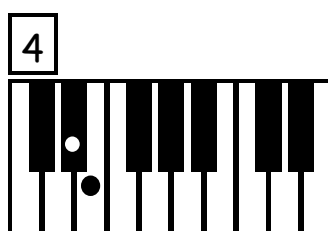
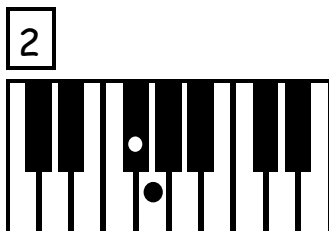
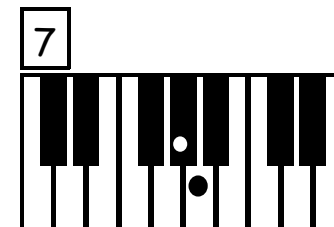
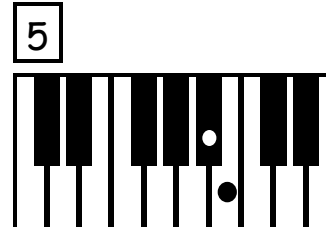
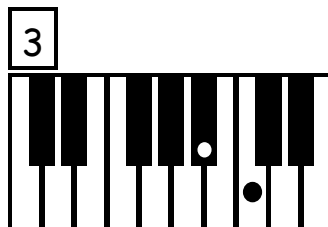
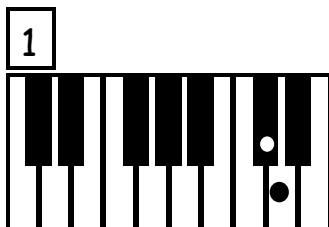
On your keyboard, pressing a white note AND the black note to the left of it gives a minor chord.
So, you need to press 2 keys **at the same time**

Look at this diagram.
This shows how to play the chord of **A minor**



Look at these diagrams of minor chords. For each one :

A : Play the chord using any style B : Write in your worksheet the name of the chord



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Card 5

Playing major and minor automatic chords

These chord sequences use major and minor chords. Play them on your keyboard using different rhythms (styles). When you can play one **4 times**, tick it on your worksheet.

Some of these are well known tunes. Can you spot them?

1. C /// | Am /// |

2. C /// | Am /// | F /// | G /// |

3. C /// | G /// | Dm /// | G /// |

4. Am /// | F /// | G /// | G /// |

5. C / Dm / | F / G / |

6. C / Dm / | Bb / C / |

7. F /// | Dm / Bb / | F / C / | Bb / F / |

8. F /// | Em / A / | Dm /// | Bb / C / | F /// | Dm / G / | Bb / F / |

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Card 6

Playing longer chord sequences using fills and endings.

Waltz

G // | C // | G // | Em // | Am // | D // | G // | D // | X 2

Bm // | Bm // | Em // | Em // | A // | A // | D // | D // |

G // | C // | G // | Em // | Am // | D // | G // | G // |

Any Swing rhythm

G /// | G /// | Em /// | G /// | C /// | D /// | G /// | D /// | X 2

Dm /// | G /// | C /// | C /// | Em /// | A /// | Am /// | D /// |

G /// | G /// | Em /// | G /// | C /// | D /// | G /// | G /// |