



Complete Piano Chords

Contents

Section 1	Page 3
The Encyclopedia of Chords - every chord that you are likely to find in a music sheet - 744 in all. Every chord is notated in both the treble and bass clef and is shown in three inversions (positionings).	
Section 2	Page 32
Practical Application - actual songs with a variety of accompaniment patterns.	
Section 3	Page 36
Twenty One Well Known Songs - with melody lines and chord names, have a lot of fun with them!	
Section 4	Page 47
The Encyclopedia of Scales - every major and minor scale is notated for the right hand (treble clef) and the left hand (bass clef).	

What is a Chord?

For the purposes of this book, let's define a chord as "a group of three or four notes played simultaneously." Generally, this grouping of notes provides a sound that is pleasing to the ear. There are many chords used in modern classical music and in very progressive popular music that are, by design, unpleasant to the ear. We won't deal with this type of chord in this book, because you won't need them to play your favorite songs.

In the following pages, we will deal with the nine most commonly found chords:

	<i>Symbol</i>
Major	C
Minor	Cm
Dominant 7th	C7
Minor 7th	Cm7
Major 7th	Cmaj7
Diminished 7th	Cdim7
Half Diminished 7th	Cm7 flat 5
Augmented	Caug
Major 6th	C6

The above list shows the chord symbols in the key of C. These chords may be built on any note of the scale. For example, a major 6th chord in the key of F would be "F6" and an augmented chord in the key of A would be "Aaug."

What is an Inversion?

Throughout this book, each chord is shown in its *root position* and in its first and second *inversion*. The meaning of these terms is best expressed graphically.

This is a C major chord in its *root position*:



You will notice that C, the first note of the C major scale, is the lowest note.

Here is the same chord in its *first inversion*:



Here, the lowest note is E, the third note of the C major scale. C, instead of being on the bottom, has jumped up an octave and is now on top. Now, let's look at the *second inversion*:



In this position, G, the fifth step of the scale, is the lowest note while C and G have both jumped up an octave.

As you can see, an inversion is not a different chord, but simply a different positioning of the notes within the same chord.

Section 1: The Encyclopedia of Chords

- 4 Chords on C
- 6 Chords on C♯
- 8 Chords on D♭
- 10 Chords on D
- 12 Chords on E♭
- 14 Chords on E
- 16 Chords on F
- 18 Chords on F♯
- 20 Chords on G♭
- 22 Chords on G
- 24 Chords on A♭
- 26 Chords on A
- 28 Chords on B♭
- 30 Chords on B

KEY of C

Left Hand

Root Position

C major

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

1st Inversion

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

2nd Inversion

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

C minor

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

C dominant 7

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

C minor 7

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

C major 7

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

C diminished 7

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

C half diminished 7

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

C augmented

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

C6

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

E F G A B C D E F G A B C D E

G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

In order to complete the arrangement, there is one more step. In Example 4, we have the correct chords in their proper inversions, but the left hand is playing dotted half notes throughout, which is not very interesting. What we must do is create an accompaniment pattern. This pattern would work very well with this melody:

Example 5



Here is the completed arrangement using a pleasant-sounding accompaniment pattern:

Example 6

The musical arrangement consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a piano-style accompaniment. The middle staff is a bass clef staff, and the bottom staff is another bass clef staff. The vocal line (treble clef) starts with a C chord, followed by A7, D7, G7, C, and Am. The bass lines provide harmonic support, with the middle bass staff moving through Dm, G7, C, Am, Dm, G7, and C chords, and the bottom bass staff providing a steady harmonic foundation.

Now that you have learned how to create a simple but pleasant-sounding arrangement, try applying these basic rules to the well-known songs on the following pages.