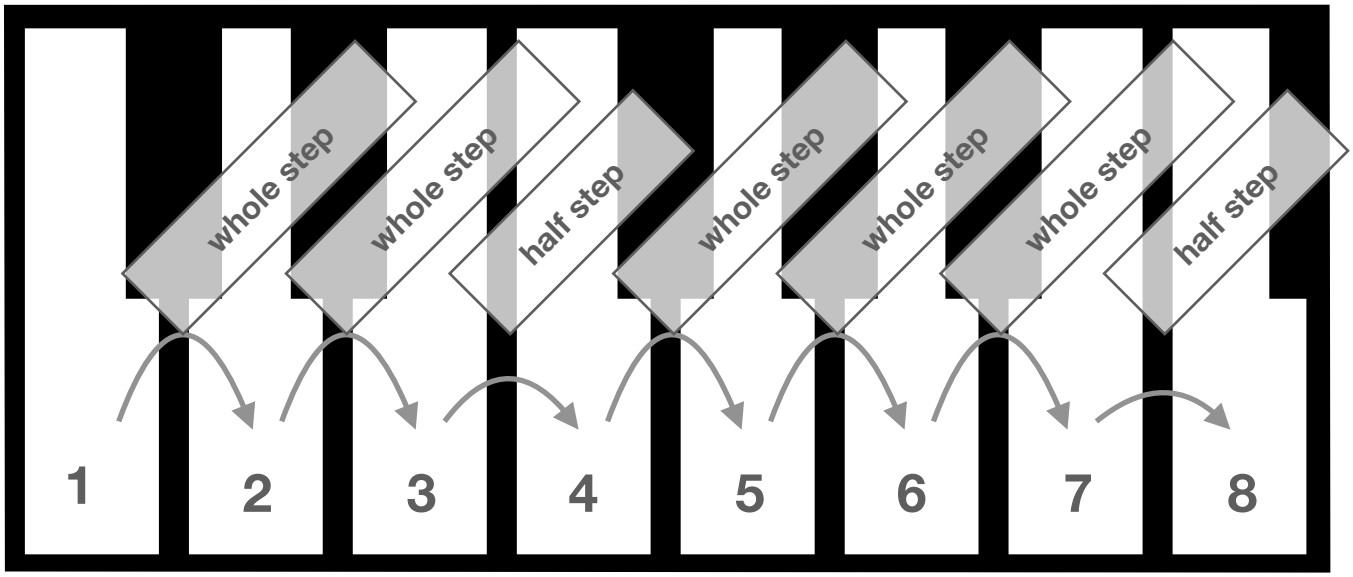
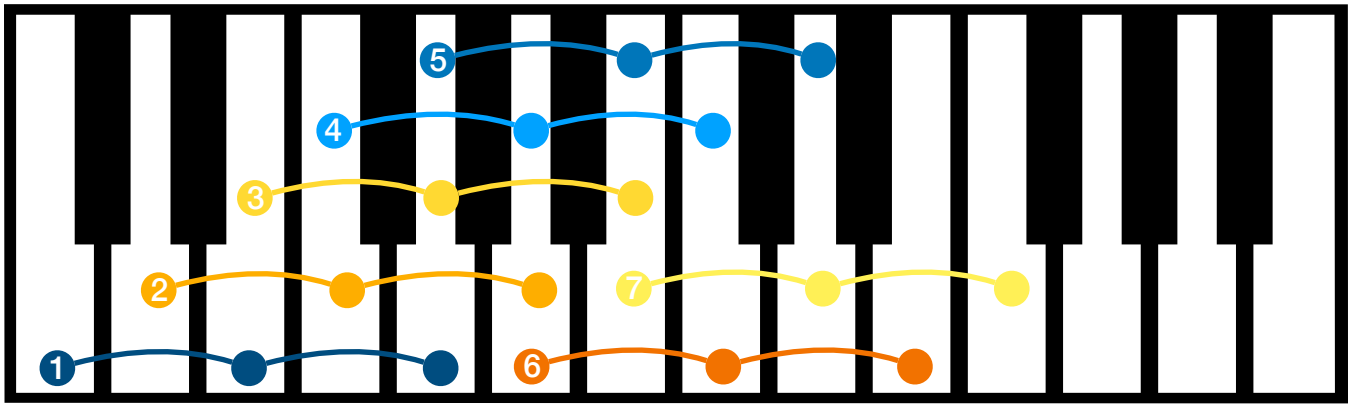
Major scale intervals

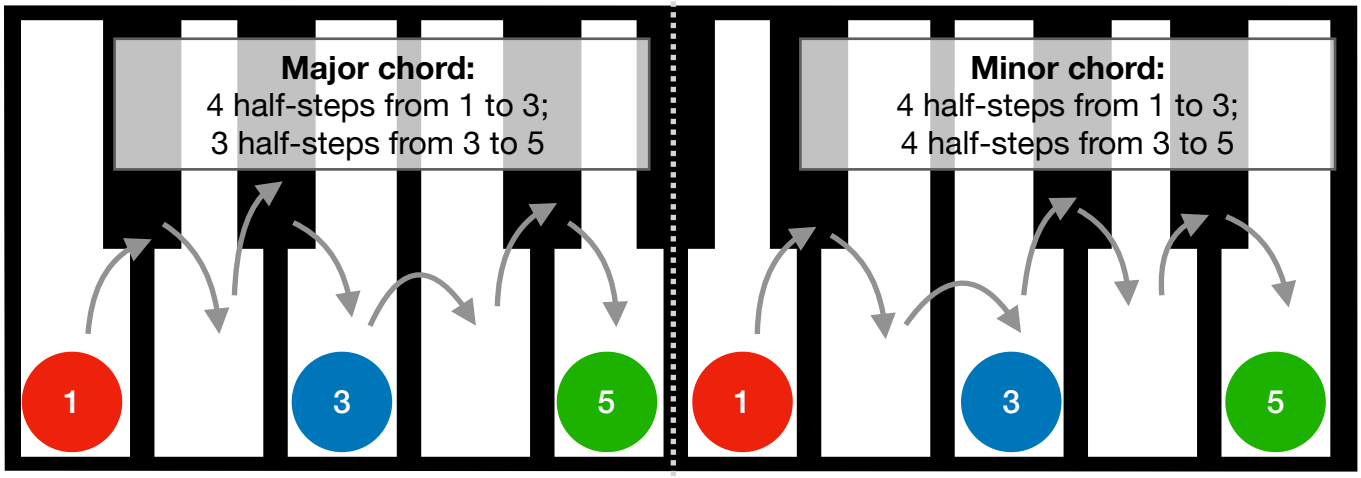


Chords in a major key

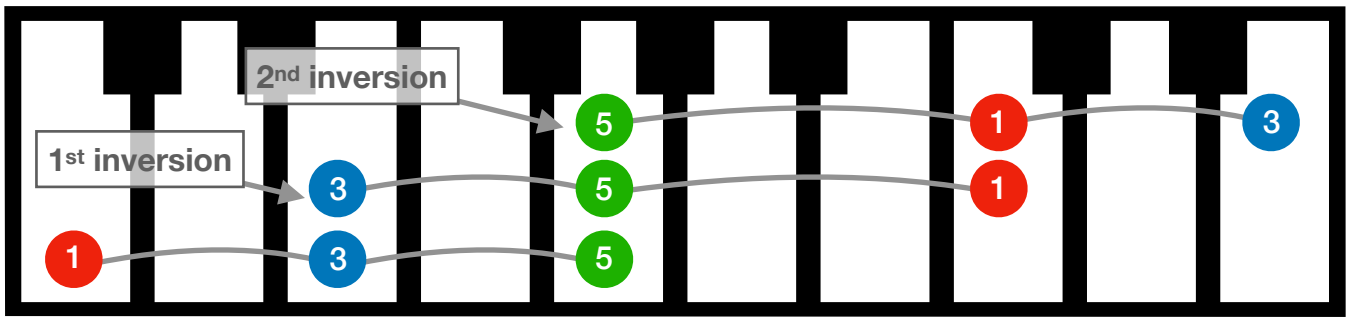


Chord number	Type	Notes in scale used			Name (in C major)	Often played as
1	**Major**	**1**	**3**	**5**	**C maj**	
2	Minor	2	4	6	D min	minor 7th
3	Minor	3	5	7	E min	
4	**Major**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**F maj**	**(sus)2**
5	**Major**	**5**	**7**	**2**	**G maj**	**(sus)4**
6	Minor	6	1	3	A min	minor 7th
7	Diminished	7	2	4	B^0 (dim)	

Intervals in a triad



Major chord inversions



Common chord variations

(sus) 2

(sus) 4

5

maj 7

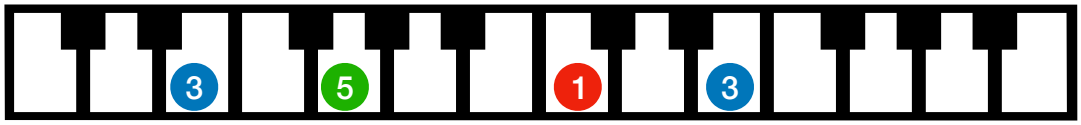
Always played with major chords.

(dom) 7

Shown here with minor chord;
can be used with major or minor.

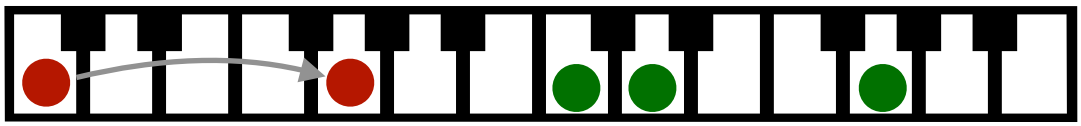
Slash chords

- By “slash chords” we mean a chord written like “C/E.” This means "C over E”
- This may be just telling you which inversion to use (i.e 2nd inversion, so E-C-G)
- Typically, however, a slash chord is telling you what note to play with each hand: you play the top chord (C) with your **right** hand, and the bottom note (E) with your **left** hand
- Not all slash chords are inversions. i.e. F/G or C/Bb
- Often slash chords sound good combined with inversions. Here’s a C/E, with the C in the 2nd inversion:

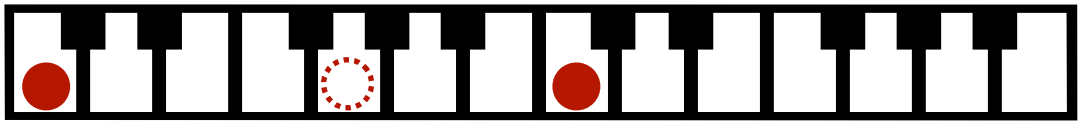


When you start playing around with slash chords, inversions, and common variations, you end up being able to move from one chord to the next with little effort.

Consider how a **Csus2** becomes a **Gsus4** simply by moving the bass note from C to G:



Left-Hand Techniques



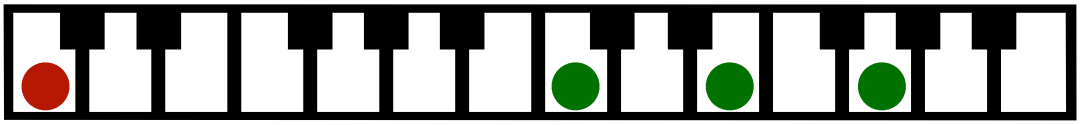
- Your left hand can play a single note, an octave, or arpeggiate through the 1-5-1 of whichever chord you're playing with your right hand.

Right-Hand Techniques

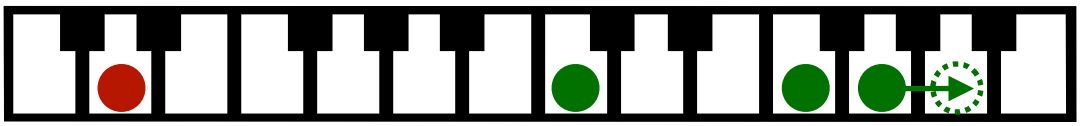
- Rather than forming full chords, your right hand can play the 1 & 5 notes of whichever key you're in (and noodle around in between.)
- You can also arpeggiate between the 5-1-5 notes or the 1-5-1 notes of whichever key you're in while your left hand plays the root notes of the chords

Playing through a scale: root chord based

1:

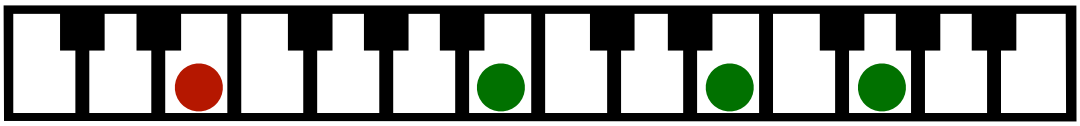


2:



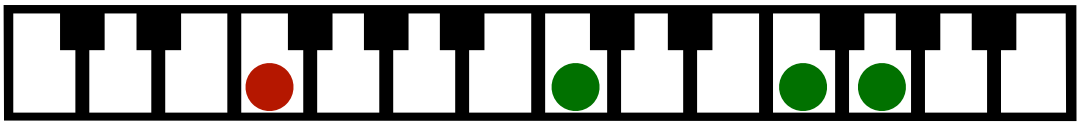
2min7 (add11)

3:



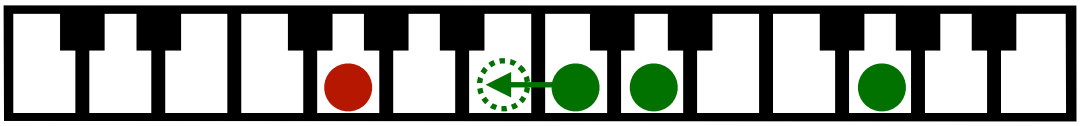
3min

4:



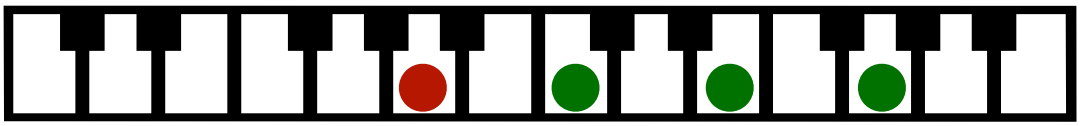
4sus2

5:



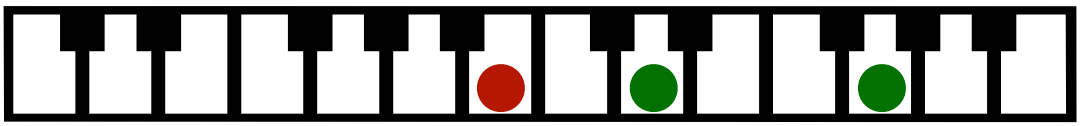
5sus4

6:



6min7

7:



5/3 (i.e. G/B)

Playing through a scale: 1st inversion based

1:

2:

2min7 (add4)

3:

3min

4:

4sus2

5:

5sus4

6:

6min7

7:

5/3 (i.e. G/B)

Playing through a scale: 2nd inversion based

1:

2:

2min7 (add4)

3:

3min

4:

4sus2

5:

5sus4

6:

6min7

7:

5/3 (i.e. G/B)

I-IV-V-I Chord Progressions

I-IV-vi-ii-V7-I Chord Progressions

I-IV-vi-V-I Chord Progressions