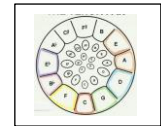


Steelpans at Home [at Leeds ArtForms]

Lesson Six - Chords Three



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Major and Minor Chords

1. Chords [and scales] can be major or minor. Major chords create a feeling of positivity, and minor chords sound a bit sad, or sweet. It's just how the sound waves hit your ears. It's just another science thing.

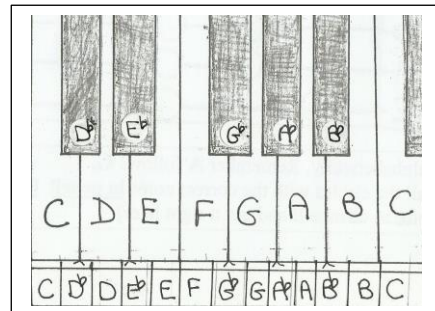
2. The chords we learn to play first, and the most commonly used chords are major chords, so C is really C major, but because they are so commonly-used we just say C.

3. Every major chord has its minor chord, and it is really, really easy to see how a minor chord can be made from a major chord on keyboards and glockenspiels, but not on steel pans.

4. Look at the keyboards diagram on the right with all the notes [as naturals and flats] from C to the next C up, one after the other.

5. C [major] is **C E G**. To make C minor you move the middle note back one [down in pitch, to the left]. Thus C minor is **C E^b G**

5. Here are the three notes of C major [C]



| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|---|----------------|----------|---|----------------|----------|----------------|---|----------------|---|---|
| C | D ^b | D | E ^b | E | F | G ^b | G | A ^b | A | B ^b | B | C |
|----------|----------------|---|----------------|----------|---|----------------|----------|----------------|---|----------------|---|---|

Here are the notes of C minor [Cm]

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|---|----------------------|---|---|----------------|----------|----------------|---|----------------|---|---|
| C | D ^b | D | E^b | E | F | G ^b | G | A ^b | A | B ^b | B | C |
|----------|----------------|---|----------------------|---|---|----------------|----------|----------------|---|----------------|---|---|

6. Now see if you can make F minor and G minor from their major chords:

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| G major | = | G | | B | | D |
| G minor | = | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| F major | = | F | | A | | C |
| F minor | = | | | | | |

7. Now play the chords of *Drunken Sailor* [see and hear it on **Play It At Home** on the *Foxwood website*].

You don't need to work out the notes of Dm, as they are written by the side of the song. But as you have only two hands, to get the minor feel, we recommend you play D and F, rather than D and A. For each bar play the chords with the rhythm: *What-shall-we-do-with-a.*

8. Please note that in the *Foxwood Songsheets* minor chords are stripye.

The major and minor chords of C, F and G on a soprano [aka tenor] pan

Chords are formed from scales (to be discussed in detail in another worksheet). So the 3rd note of the scale is the 2nd note of the chord, and the 5th note of the scale becomes the 3rd note of the chord. To avoid confusion we are calling them First [1], Middle [M] and Top [T] in ascending order of pitch).

The first five notes of the scales of C, Cm, F, Fm, G, Gm, with the chord notes in bold:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|----------------|----------------|---|
| C [major] | C | D | E | F | G |
| C minor | C | D | E ^b | F | G |
| F [major] | F | G | A | B ^b | C |
| F minor | F | G | A ^b | B ^b | C |
| G [major] | G | A | B | C | D |
| G minor | G | A | B ^b | C | D |

In the Foxwood Songsheet system of colour coding chords (originally to me from Jan Holdstock) only simple major chords have dots on all three notes. So minor chords are stripye to emphasize that the middle note will be different.

See the diagram on right as a full page on *Major and Minor Chords Part 2*

Foxwood Songsheets copied by permission of Victoria Jaquiss [from Foxwood Panyard] See and hear the songs played on **Play It At Home** [from Foxwood Panyard website] <http://foxwoodpanyard.com/play-it-at-home/>