

# THREE NOTE CHORDS OF THE MAJOR SCALE

C      DMIN      EMIN      F      G      AMIN      BDIM      C

I      iimin      iiimin      IV      V      vimin      viidim      I

CHORD SYMBOLS ABOVE THE STAFF, REPRESENT THE ROOT AND THE QUALITY OF THE CHORD (MAJ, MIN AND DIM.) WHEN THERE IS NO SYMBOL FOR THE QUALITY, THE CHORD IS IDENTIFIED AS A MAJOR (E.G. C INSTEAD OF CMAJ.) ROMAN NUMERALS REPRESENT THE ANALYSIS OF EACH CHORD/WHAT DEGREE OF THE SCALE THEY ARE BUILT ON.

CHORDS IN TONAL HARMONY ARE DISTINGUISHED IN THREE DIFFERENT TYPES ACCORDING TO THEIR FUNCTION: TONIC, SUBDOMINANT AND DOMINANT CHORDS:

## CHORDS WITH A TONIC FUNCTION:

C      EMIN

I      iiimin

## CHORDS WITH SUBDOMINANT FUNCTION:

DMIN      F

iimin      IV

## CHORDS WITH DOMINANT FUNCTION:

G      BDIM

V      viidim

THE VIMIN CHORD (IN THE KEY OF CMAJOR THAT WOULD BE AMIN,) CAN FUNCTION BOTH AS A TONIC AND AS A SUBDOMINANT CHORD—BUT NOT AT THE SAME TIME. THE FUNCTION IS DETERMINED BY THE CHORD PRECEDING THE VIMIN. IF IT IS PRECEDED BY A DOMINANT CHORD, IT WILL SOUND AND FUNCTION AS A TONIC CHORD; IF IT IS PRECEDED BY A TONIC CHORD, IT WILL SOUND AND FUNCTION AS A SUBDOMINANT CHORD.

## THREE NOTE CHORDS OF THE MAJOR SCALE

ALL CHORDS CAN BE USED IN DIFFERENT INVERSIONS. THIS MEANS THAT THE ORDER OF THE NOTES CONTAINED IN THE VOICING, CAN BE MANIPULATED. THIS IS VERY USEFULL BECAUSE IT HELPS CREATE BETTER VOICE LEADING.

**C**

5  
ROOT POSITION                      1ST INVERSION                      2ND INVERSION

**D MIN**

6  
ROOT POSITION                      1ST INVERSION                      2ND INVERSION

**E MIN**

7  
ROOT POSITION                      1ST INVERSION                      2ND INVERSION

**F**

8  
ROOT POSITION                      1ST INVERSION                      2ND INVERSION

**G**

9  
ROOT POSITION                      1ST INVERSION                      2ND INVERSION

**A MIN**

10  
ROOT POSITION                      1ST INVERSION                      2ND INVERSION

**B MIN**

11  
ROOT POSITION                      1ST INVERSION                      2ND INVERSION