



# Music Musings No.7: Chords & Scales !

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## More about chords as they relate to the scale

The chords built using each note of the scale are either MAJOR or MINOR. Major chords are HAPPY sounding, while minor chords or SAD.

When you build chords using notes of any major scale, **CHORDS 1, 4 and 5 are ALWAYS MAJOR**; and **CHORDS 2, 3, and 6 are MINOR**. (CHORD 7 is a rugged individualist, it prefers to be diminished (more on that later!) The chart below shows this in the key of C. The same is true in every key!

SCALE NOTE NUMBER:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(8)
NOTES OF THE C SCALE:	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
CHORD NAMES	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim	(C)

Major chords (bracketed above notes 1, 4, 5)  
Minor chords (bracketed below notes 2, 3, 6)

-----> CHORD SECRET No. 635: Most songs (especially folk, country, & hymns) can be played using only 3 chords: the 1 (C) , 4 (F) and 5 (G) chords are the backbone of most songs. How many tunes can you play using just those 3 chords? See Music Musings No. 4 for more info!

## Playing with chords and bass notes

### NIFTY CHORD PLAY No. 1:

Play a C CHORD with your Right Hand (R.H.). Press and hold for 4 BEATS. Meanwhile, with your left hand, play a single C NOTE an octave below the c chord. Play 4 times (both the R.H. chord and the 1st C bass note will be played on beat number 1). Then move the L.H. note down one space to the B NOTE. Play the B NOTE 4 times while pressing and holding the R.H. C chord. Then move the L.H. note down to A (for 4 beats), then to G, and all the way down until you reach the next C note. (See Music Musings No. 2 for notes of the C scale.) Here's how it looks:

Beats	Left Hand				Right Hand			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Notes played	C	C	C	C	C chord (hold for 4 beats)			
	B	B	B	B	C chord (hold for 4 beats)			
	A	A	A	A	C chord (hold for 4 beats)			
	G	G	G	G	C chord (hold for 4 beats) and so on!			

### NIFTY CHORD PLAY No. 2:

Now let's do the opposite, where the Left Hand note (C) stays the same, while the Right Hand chord moves up to a new one every 4 beats.

Beats	Left Hand				Right Hand			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Notes played	C	C	C	C	C chord (hold for 4 beats)			
	C	C	C	C	Dm chord (hold for 4 beats)			
	C	C	C	C	Em chord (hold for 4 beats)			
	C	C	C	C	F chord (hold for 4 beats) and so on (keep moving to next chord up)			