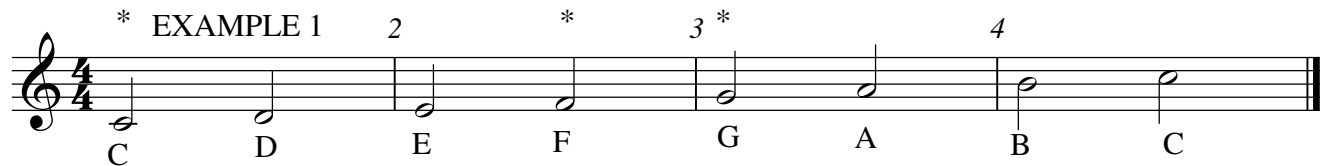


These pages will be available as a pdf on the HRGB website.

A BEGINNER'S Guide to Arranging Music for Handbells

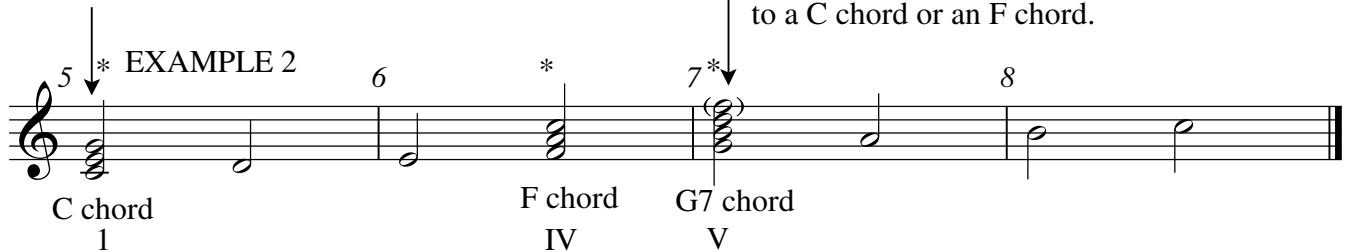
Using 12 bells in C major - C5 to G6

Robin Benton - March 2022



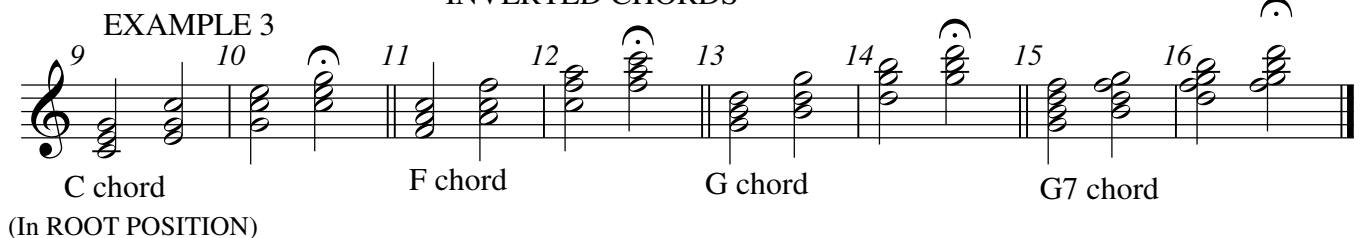
three note chords are called TRIADS.

the added 7th note helps this chord to move easily to a C chord or an F chord.



The C chord, the F chord and the G chord are sometimes named by their numbers in C major. (other chords are available, but C, F and G are the most important).

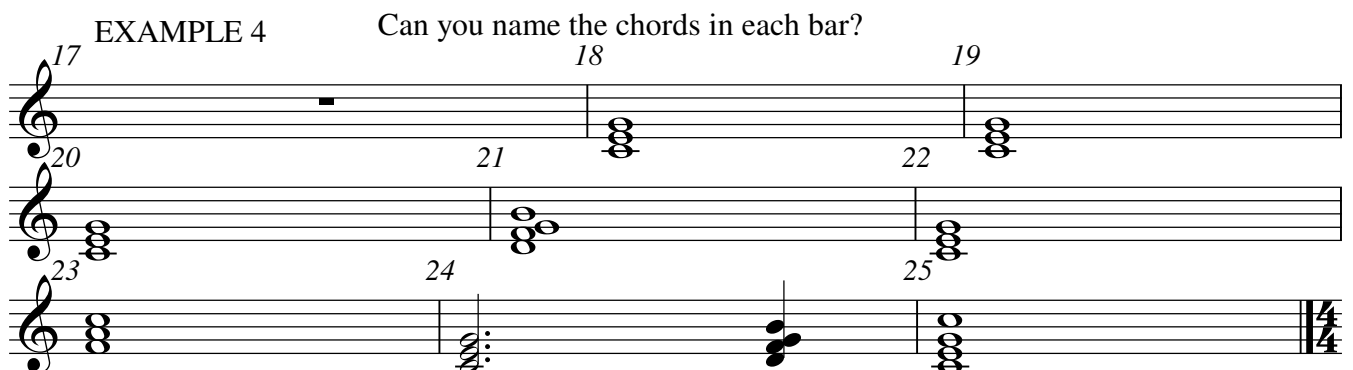
INVERTED CHORDS



Our three chords (C, F and G) are used in many tunes and are often called 'THE THREE CHORD TRICK.' Pop musicians have built successful careers playing just 3 chords - Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan to mention just two!

Jazz musicians use the 3 chords in their 12 bar blues, so let's make a sequence of our 3 chords.

A CHORD SEQUENCE USING OUR 3 CHORDS (C,F and G7)



EXAMPLE 5

NAME THIS TUNE!

('Rock around the clock' uses just 3 chords - view it on youtube!)

It uses the chord pattern for a 12 bar blues.

'The Secret Guitar Teacher' website explains 'THE THREE CHORD TRICK'

EXAMPLE 6

TRYING OUT CHORDS TO FIT OUR TUNE

EXAMPLE 7

BE A DETECTIVE!

1. Look at the notes - which chord are they part of?
2. Listen as you try out different chords - which sounds the best?
3. Aim for a good CHORD SEQUENCE.

EXAMPLE 8

Minuet by J.S.Bach

These are PASSING NOTES.



The PASSING NOTES move from one note of our chord to another.

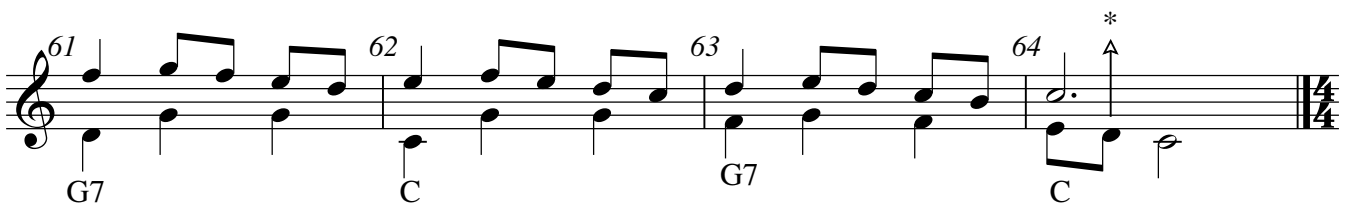
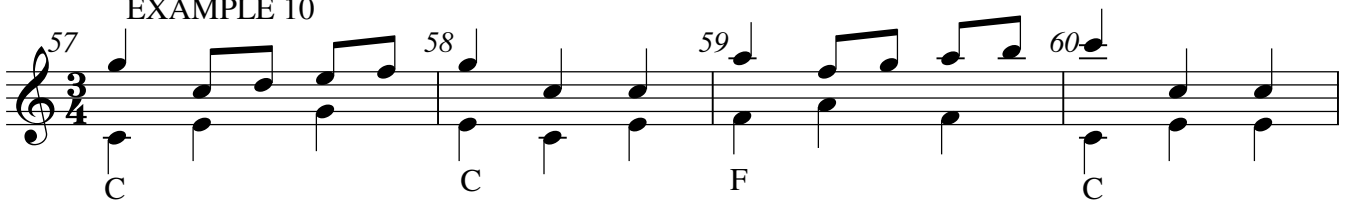


EXAMPLE 9 Which chords shall we use? You can ignore the PASSING NOTES.



Here we have split up the notes of our chord and created BROKEN CHORDS.

EXAMPLE 10



Blue Moon

Richard Rodgers

65 melody

66 67

68 69 70

71 72 73

EXAMPLE 12 Possible chord sequence for this song.

74 75 76

77 78 79

80 81 82

F C G7 C G7

SUBSTITUTE CHORDS

83 EXAMPLE 13 84 85 86

A minor is similar to C major chord (inversion) D minor chord is similar to F major chord (inversion)

87 EXAMPLE 14 Richard Rodgers' version 88 89

C Am Dm G7

instead of the C chord. instead of the G chord.

90 91 92

C Am Dm G7 C Am

instead of the C chord.

instead of the G chord.

instead of the C chord.

This chord sequence is called A TURNAROUND as it leads easily back to the repeat.

93 94 95

Dm7 F C * Am Dm G7

Dm7 instead of the F chord.

* instead of the C chord.

Revision time!

5

EXAMPLE 15

block chords inverted chord broken chord passing note

96 97 98 99 100 101

C F G7 Dm Am

Building an arrangement

EXAMPLE 16

Skip to my Lou

102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109

C C G7 G7 C C G C

EXAMPLE 17

With melody underneath

110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117

C C G7 (B4) G7 C C G7 C

EXAMPLE 18

The complete piece!

118 Single melody 119 120 121

122 123 124 125

126 With block chords 127 128 129

130 131 132 133

134 With broken chords 135 136 137

138 139 140 141

This is a LEAD LINE - follow it to find the melody!

With melody underneath

142 143 144 145 146

147 148 149 150 151

Ending (Coda) rall.

12/4

Silent night

Can you find:

1. Passing notes
2. Melody underneath
3. Melody on top
4. Use of 3rds?
5. A Lead Line

Note the Coda (last 4 bars)

Note the use of THE THREE CHORD TRICK. (+ a Dminor chord)

You can print this out and try it with your friends.

Can you play it as a '4in hand' piece? Enjoy!

Bells used: 12

A PIECE TO PLAY

The musical score for 'Silent Night' is written in 3/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single staff, and the accompaniment is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 1 through 26 indicated. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a series of eighth notes. The accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. The piece concludes with a coda of four bars.

152

12

1

2

3

4

mf

arr. R.B.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

rall.

22

23

24

25

26

LV

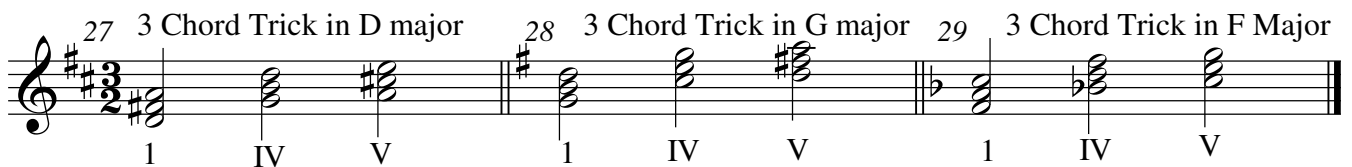
LV

R

WHAT NEXT?

- * Look at the 12 bell music from the HRGB Shop. The MAYOLA Series is ideal.
- * I can recommend David Barker's excellent 12 bell books of Christmas carols and also the 12 bell music of John Mitchell (HRGB Shop.) Do try his 'Martello Collection'.
- * An excellent booklet is 'Beginner's Guide to Arranging Music for Handbells' by Lysbeth Wilson (HRGB Shop - £1!)
- * What to arrange? Classical music, folk songs and traditional tunes are fun to arrange. They are out of Copyright.
- * If you want to arrange a tune and there are Copyright details at the bottom of the copy you can check with the Performing Rights Society (www.prsformusic.com) for clearance.
- * Do look at Malcolm's detailed notes on 'Arranging Music for Handbells' from his October 2021 zoom presentation.
- * What do I need? A keyboard, a pencil and eraser, some music paper, curiosity, patience and a good set of ears!
- * Why not try to compose your own music? Perhaps a 12 bell Waltz, a March or a descriptive piece. This will both surprise and delight your ringers.
- * If you wish to arrange for a 2 octave set of bells, you could use The THREE CHORD TRICK in these simple keys.

The THREE CHORD TRICK in popular keys.



.....and finally - GOOD LUCK!