

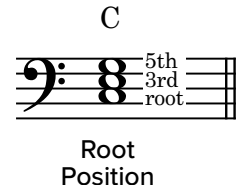
UNIT 2

Chords in Root Position and First Inversion

LESSON FOR LIFE

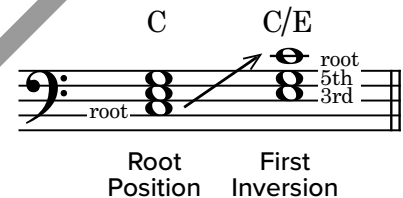
Chords in Root Position

- ▶ The bottom note of a triad (three-note chord) is called the **root**.
- ▶ The middle note of a triad is called the **3rd** (an interval of a 3rd above the root).
- ▶ The top note of a triad is called the **5th** (an interval of a 5th above the root).
- ▶ A chord is in **Root Position** when the root is the bottom note.



Chords in First Inversion

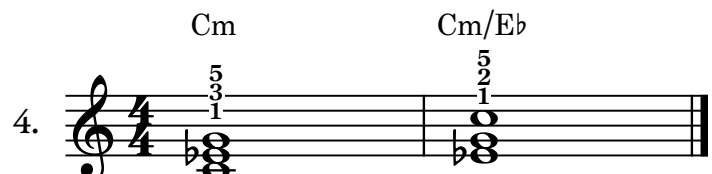
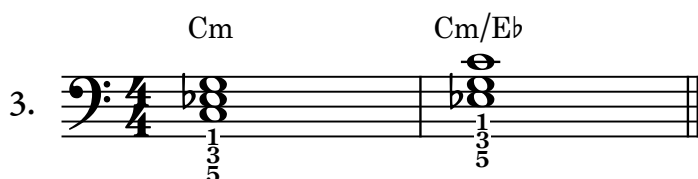
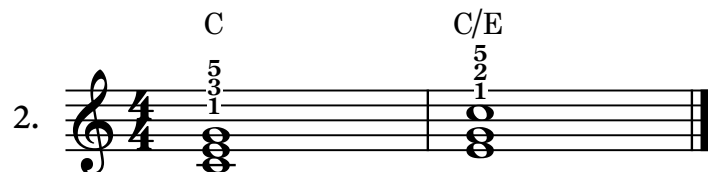
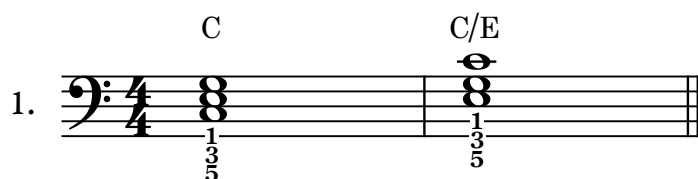
- ▶ A chord is in **First Inversion** when the 3rd is the bottom note and the root is moved to the top.
- ▶ The chord symbol C/E shows that the chord is in first inversion. (C = name of the chord; E = bottom note of the chord.)



Helpful Hint: In a first-inversion chord, the interval between the top two notes is a 4th. The root of the chord is the top note of the 4th.

Play the following chords notated in root position and first inversion.

- ▶ The LH fingering for the first-inversion chord is 5 3 1.
- ▶ The RH fingering for the first-inversion chord is 1 2 5.



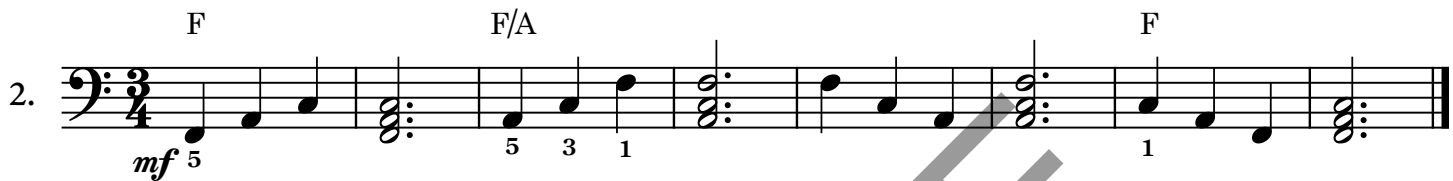
Challenge: Play root-position and first-inversion chords for G, Gm, F, and Fm.

FIT FOR LIFE

Major Chords in Root Position and First Inversion

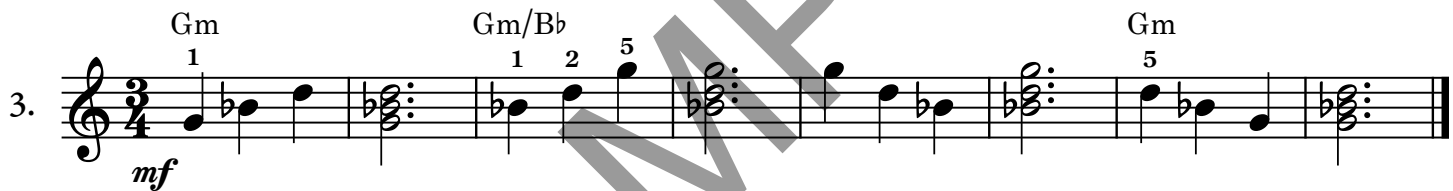
1. 

Play 1 (above) with F and G major chords.

2. 

Play 2 (above) with C and G major chords.

Minor Chords in Root Position and First Inversion

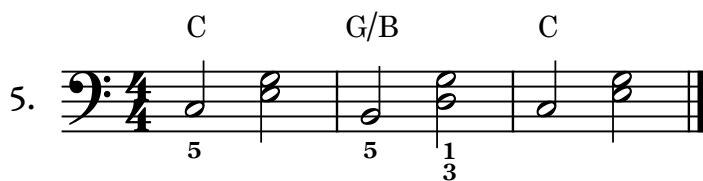
3. 

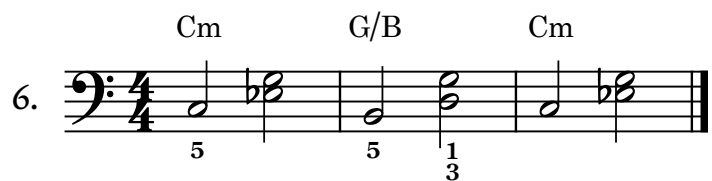
Play 3 (above) with C and F minor chords.

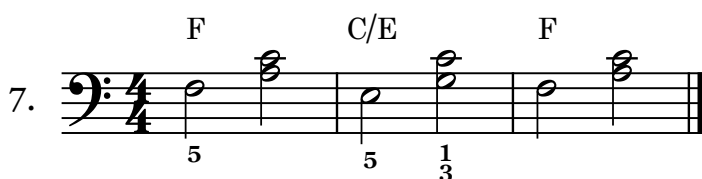
4. 

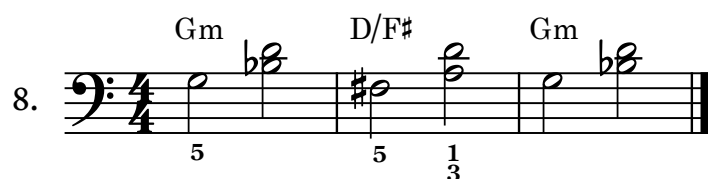
Play 4 (above) with F and G minor chords.

Broken Chord Patterns in Root Position and First Inversion

5. 

6. 

7. 

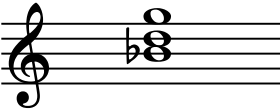
8. 

PENCIL TO PAPER

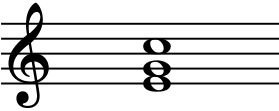
1. Circle Root Position or First Inversion for each chord.

a. 


Root Position
First Inversion

b. 


Root Position
First Inversion

c. 

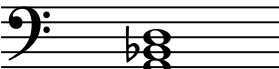
Root Position
First Inversion

d. 

Root Position
First Inversion

e. 

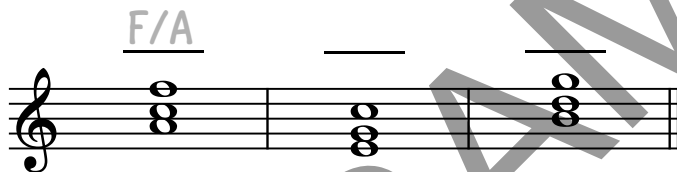
Root Position
First Inversion

f. 

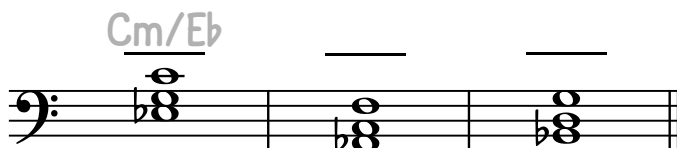
Root Position
First Inversion

Helpful Hint: When writing the chord symbol for a first-inversion chord, the name of the chord is followed by a forward slash and the bottom note (3rd) of the chord.

2. Write the chord symbol for each major chord in first inversion above the staff.



3. Write the chord symbol for each minor chord in first inversion above the staff.

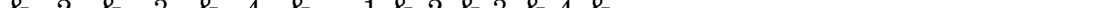


4. The RH fingering for a major or minor chord in first inversion is _____.

5. The LH fingering for a major or minor chord in first inversion is _____.

FEEL THE BEAT

Clap or tap, and count aloud.

1. 
Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &


2. $\frac{4}{4}$ 


3. $\frac{4}{4}$ 

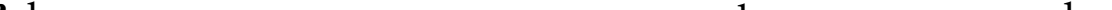
Optional: Using rhythms 1 and 2 above, improvise a melody using the notes of the G major scale with the right hand. Begin on the G above middle C using rhythm 1, followed by rhythm 2, and ending on the same G.

AT A GLANCE

Play and count.

1. 

3. 

4. 

Snowy Evening

Melody Bober

Gently (♩ = 108)



mp

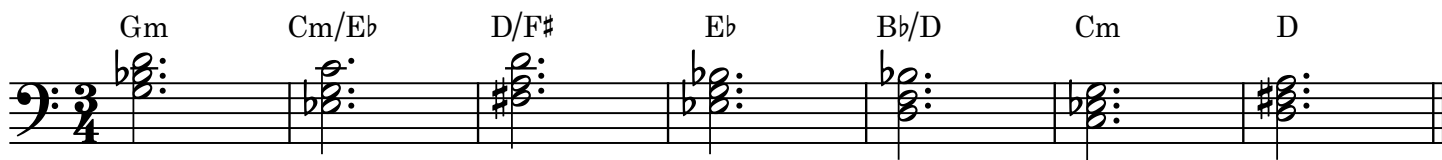
mf

f

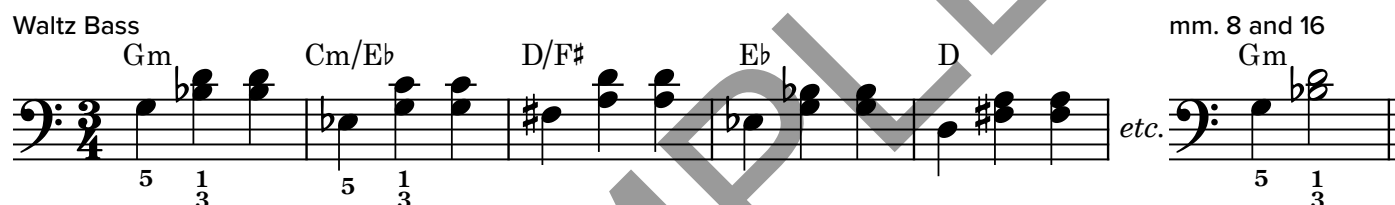
mf

TAKING THE LEAD

Create a lead sheet arrangement of “Autumn Waltz” using these chords:

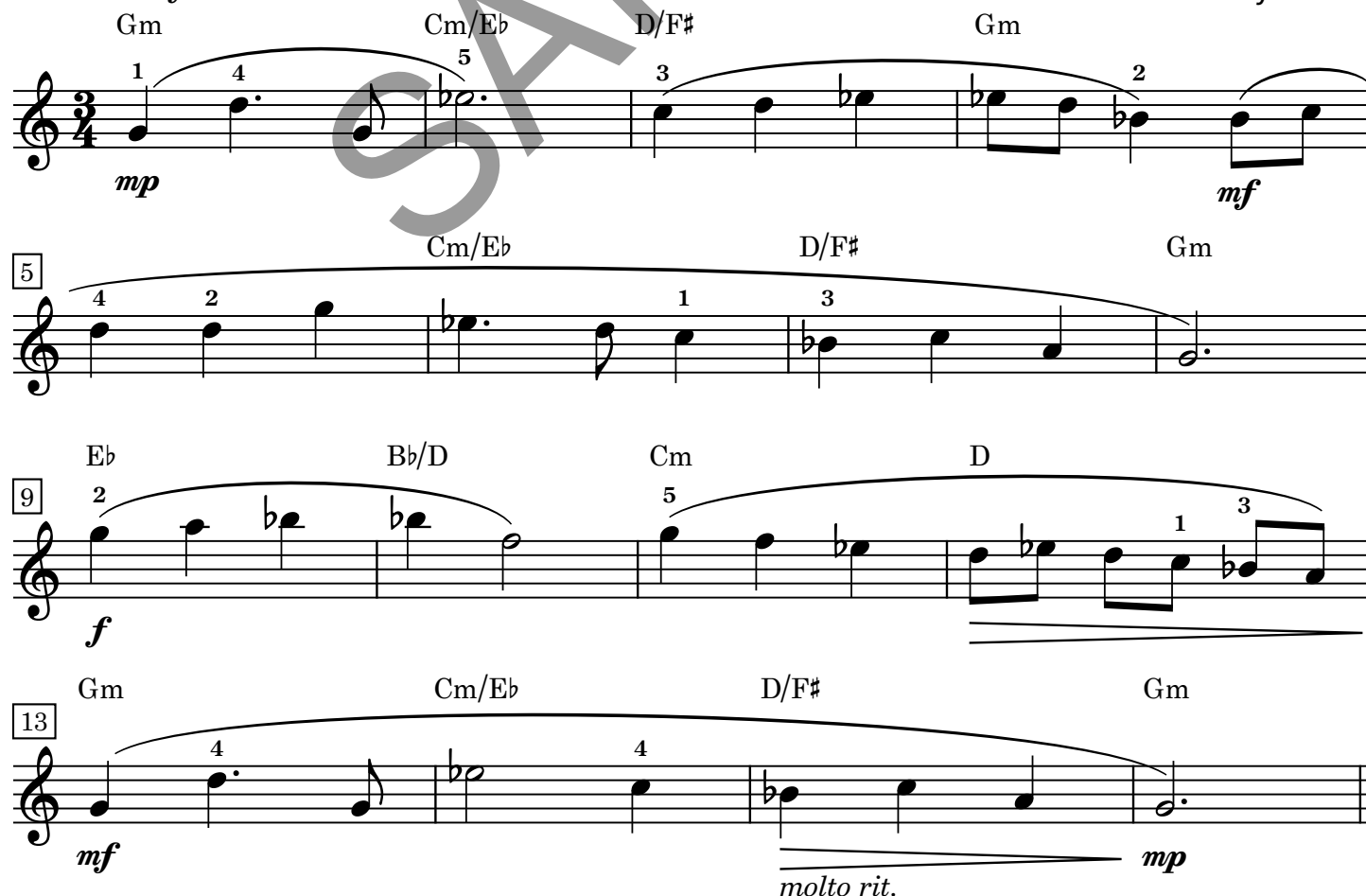


1. Practice the chords with the left hand (LH).
2. Practice the melody with the right hand (RH).
3. Play the chord with the LH on beat 1 of each measure while playing the RH melody.
In measure 5, where no chord is indicated, repeat the previous chord.
4. Create an arrangement that uses a waltz bass accompaniment pattern.
End the phrases in measures 8 and 16 by holding the notes on beat 2 of the pattern.


Autumn Waltz

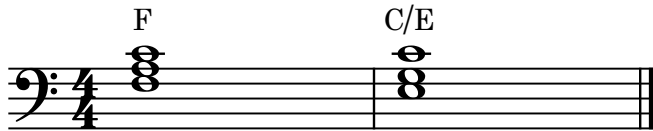
Gently (♩ = 120)

Melody Bober



LIFE OF THE PARTY

Create a lead sheet arrangement of “Hush Little Baby” using these chords:



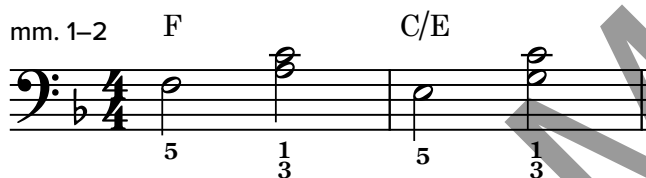
1. Practice the chords with the left hand (LH).
2. Practice the melody with the right hand (RH).
3. Play the chord with the LH on beat 1 of each measure while playing the RH melody. In measures 3, 5, and 7, where no chord is indicated, repeat the previous chord. Omit the top note of the chord if it is the same as the melody note.

Optional: The melody also can be played one octave higher than written to avoid the thumbs overlapping.

4. Create an arrangement that uses a broken-chord accompaniment pattern in the left hand.

Broken Chord

mm. 1–2



Hush Little Baby

United States

Moderato (♩ = 100)

mp Hush lit - tle ba - by, don't say a word, Ma-ma's gon-na buy you a mock-ing - bird,

5 If that mock - ing - bird don't sing, Ma-ma's gon-na buy you a dia-mond ring.