

Triads in 1st Inversion (3RD IN THE BASS)

12-7-74

Triads in 1st inversion are used to create a melodic and smooth bass line and also they add a fresh sound to the harmonic vocabulary when contrasted with root position triads. There are different common uses of 1st INVERSIONS which can be generally summed up as follows:

① 1st INVERSIONS can REPLACE a root position triad of the same name — compare the following:

Musical notation for exercise 1: A staff in G major (one sharp) showing root position triads (I, IV, V) and their first inversions (i, iv, v) in a sequence.

Practice the following chord connections on all possible string sets

② 1st INVERSIONS can FOLLOW a root position triad of the same name;

Musical notation for exercise 2: A staff in G major showing a root position triad (I) followed by its first inversion (i).

Musical notation for exercise 3: A staff in G major showing alternating root position (I, IV, V) and first inversion (i, iv, v) triads.

IF THE KEY OF A gets too monotonous for your ear, transpose all exercises right away (instead of waiting for a few weeks, months, as usual) to all keys via the cycle of 4ths.

OR VICE VERSA OR ALTERNATE WITH ROOT POSITION TRIAD OF SAME NAME

Musical notation for exercise 4: A staff in G major showing alternating root position (I, IV, V) and first inversion (i, iv, v) triads.

③ 1st INVERSIONS CAN JUMP TO OTHER 1st INVERSIONS or to OTHER CHORDS

④ 1st INVERSIONS CAN BE USED TO CREATE SMOOTH, STEPWISE BASS LINES by ALTERNATING WITH ROOT POSITION TRIADS

Musical notation for exercise 5: A staff in G major showing a sequence of triads (I, IV, V, i, iv, v) with a stepwise bass line. Includes notes: "WILL BE DISCUSSED LATER", "SETUP THIS KEY BEFORE (G#m) PLAYING EXAMPLE".

Musical notation for exercise 6: A staff in G major showing a deceptive triad (IV-V) and a melodic minor sequence (i, iv, v, I, IV, V). Includes notes: "deceptive triad", "NOTICE the use of the MELODIC MINOR - this is standard procedure when a bass line (in minor), descending to the tonic in a minor key.", "the natural minor is usually used", "this example correlates with (6) below".

Musical notation for exercise 7: A staff in G major showing triads in 1st inversion with alternate voicings. Includes notes: "OR WITH MIXED VOICINGS (SYSTEMS WILL BE GIVEN LATER ON THIS)".

Musical notation for exercise 8: A staff in G major showing triads in 1st inversion following or preceding triads on the same bass notes. Includes notes: "LESS COMMONLY (OR, PRECEDE) TRIADS ON THE SAME BASS NOTES", "6-9-80 Do in various sequences", and a diagram of a 6-9-80 sequence: $\begin{matrix} 6 & 9 & 80 \\ H & h & 6 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{matrix}$

A system of exercises using many of the above devices will follow soon. For now, just get acquainted with 1st INVERSIONS by transposing the above to all keys. Think in names not just in "pictures".

5 CONT.

5 I A

2 VII₆ G⁷₆

2 I₆ A

4 ii₆ C_m

6 iii₆ C[#]_m

7 IV₆ D

9 I₆ E

9 I A

7 bII₆ D

6 V₆ C_m

4 IV₆ C_m

6 I C[#]

6 I A

12 I₇ A₇

11 VI₆ F_m

10 VII₆ G⁷₆

10 VII₇ G⁷₇

9 I₆ E

9 VI₆ F_m

9 VII₇ F_m⁷

7 IV₆ D

7 II₆ E

7 II₇ E₇

6 ii₆ B_m

5 II₆ D

4 ii₆ C_m

7 II₇ E

6 iii₆ C[#]_m

9 ii₇ F_m

9 IV₆ D

10 VII₆ G⁷₆

9 I₆ E

9 I A

3 4 2 1

Empty guitar fretboard grids for practice.