

Alfred's

Alto Clef (Viola) Edition Book 3

# Essentials of MUSIC THEORY

LESSONS • EAR TRAINING • WORKBOOK

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## FOREWORD

Listening to music is one of the most popular pastimes, enjoyed by people all over the world. Whether listening to recordings or attending live concerts, music has the ability to inspire and give pleasure to almost everyone.

For many students and professionals, playing a musical instrument is an even more enjoyable experience. But understanding how music is constructed; how scales and chords are formed; the relationship between major and minor keys; and how music is composed through melody, harmony and chord progressions can enhance the musical experience even further. There is also current scientific research which proves that studying music improves I.Q. scores—it actually makes students smarter.

*Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory* is designed for students of any age, whether listener or performer, who want to have a better understanding of the language of music.

**BOOKS 1, 2, 3:** This theory course is made up of three books of 40 pages each, with each book containing six units. A unit consists of four or five pages of instructional material (including written exercises), an Ear Training page and a Review page.

Each new term is capitalized the first time it is introduced (GRAND STAFF) and will also be listed in the Glossary & Index of Terms and Symbols (along with the page number) at the end of each book. As the Glossary only contains terms introduced within the book, it is a complete listing of subjects included.

**COMPLETE BOOK:** *Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory* is also available in one complete book of 120 pages that contains all the pages included in the separate books. An alto clef (viola) edition is also available in one complete or three separate books.

**TEACHER'S ANSWER KEY:** A *Complete Book* with the answers for the exercises from the Lesson and Review pages and music for the Ear Training pages. Also included is a reproducible sheet for listing student names and grades for the Ear Training and Review pages.

**COMPACT DISCS:** One of the difficulties in studying music theory is not being able to hear what is being learned. The two CDs available (**CD 1** covers Books 1 and 2, **CD 2** covers Book 3) not only allow the student to hear the musical elements discussed, but offers the student opportunities to test their listening skills. Musical examples are played by a variety of instruments (piano, flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, violin and cello).

**COMPUTER SOFTWARE:** The use of computers in the music studio has become commonplace in many schools and universities. *Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory* offers companion software for both IBM-compatible and Macintosh computers that will allow the instructor to test and drill students, keep track of their students' progress, and make use of interactive instruction in the classroom.



Thanks to:  
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## APPENDIX

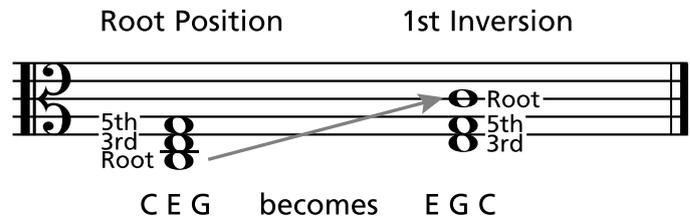
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# Triads — 1st Inversion

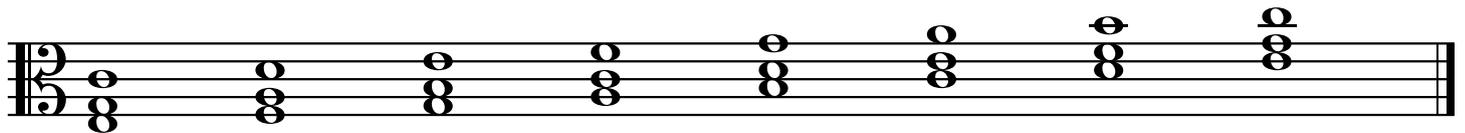
Any root position triad may be changed by moving the root (bottom note) of the chord to another position. This is called an **INVERSION**—it means the notes are rearranged and a tone other than the root is the bottom note of the chord.

The first inversion can be made from a C triad by moving the root (C) to the top of the chord.



All letter names are the same, but the 3rd (E) is now on the bottom, and the root (C) is now on top. This is called **1st INVERSION**.

1st Inversion Triads in C major (3rd is on the bottom).

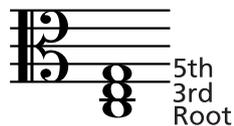


In 1st inversion, the **3rd** is *always* the bottom note.

## OPEN and CLOSE POSITIONS

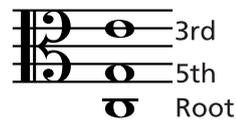
When the notes of a chord are spaced within an octave, it is in **CLOSE POSITION**.  
When the notes of a chord are spaced larger than an octave, it is in **OPEN POSITION**.

Close Position



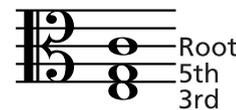
Root Position

Open Position



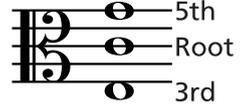
Root Position

Close Position



1st Inversion

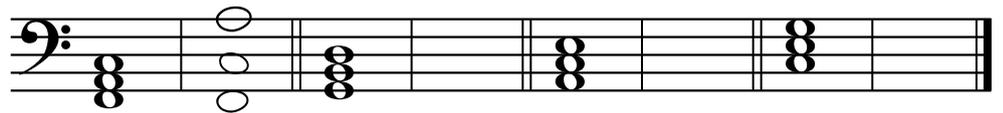
Open Position



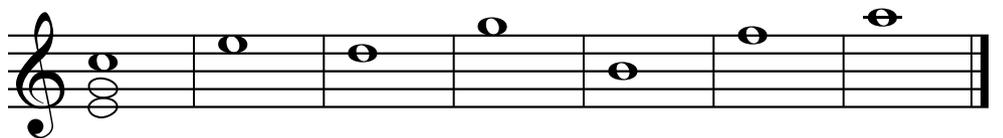
1st Inversion

## Exercises

- 1 Rewrite the following root position triads in open position.



- 2 Using the given notes as the root, add the 3rd and 5th *below* each note to make 1st inversion triads in the key of C.



- 3 Using the given notes as the 3rd, add the 5th and root *above* each note to make 1st inversion triads in the key of C (close position).

