

LESSON 6: BASIC 9th CHORDS

Chords are formed from the notes of major scales. C chords are based on the C major scale. G chords are based on the G major scale, etc. The numbers used in chord symbols refer to specific notes of the major scale called *degrees*. For example, the 3rd *degree* is the 3rd *note* of the major scale.

A 9th chord is formed by adding the 9th degree of the major scale to a “regular” 7th chord (C7)*. The chord symbol is C9.

Directions: The two lines below show a series of 7th chords for left hand with space for the 9th to be written for right hand. The first two measures are samples. Write the 9th degree in each of the remaining measures. Notice that the 9th is the same as the 2nd degree but *one octave higher*.

The first staff shows a sequence of 7th chords in the left hand (bass clef) and corresponding 9th chords in the right hand (treble clef). The chords are: C7, C9, D^b7, D^b9, D7, D9, E^b7, E^b9, E7, E9, F7, F9. The second staff shows: G^b7, G^b9, G7, G9, A^b7, A^b9, A7, A9, B^b7, B^b9, B7, B9. The 9th degree of each chord is written in the right hand, demonstrating that it is the 2nd degree of the scale one octave higher.

Keyboard Exercise: After completing the written work, practice the above lines at least five times per day until they can be played easily and accurately. For added practice, play the sequence backwards.

Obviously, it is difficult or impossible to play all five notes with the left hand. Usually the *right* hand will assist by playing one or more notes of a 9th chord. The 5th degree is often *omitted*.

Directions: The line below shows a series of 9th chords with the top three notes omitted. Write the top two notes (7th and 9th *degrees*) of each 9th chord for the right hand. The first two measures are a sample. The 5th degree will be *omitted* in all measures.

The staff shows a sequence of 9th chords in the left hand (bass clef) and corresponding 9th chords in the right hand (treble clef). The chords are: C9, D^b9, D9, E^b9, E9, F9, G^b9, G9, A^b9, A9, B^b9, B9. The 7th and 9th degrees of each chord are written in the right hand, demonstrating that the 9th degree is the 2nd degree of the scale one octave higher.

Keyboard Exercise: After completing the written work, practice the line above at least five times per day until it can be played easily and accurately. For added practice, play the line backwards.

*The “regular” 7th chord, sometimes called a *dominant* 7th, uses a *lowered* 7th degree of the major scale.

LESSON 13: 2-MEASURE OSTINATO BASS PATTERNS

The four lines below show four different styles of 2-measure ostinato patterns with various chord symbols. Obviously, the full pattern can be used only when there are two consecutive measures with the same chord symbol and should be used in music where this situation exists frequently. You could change to a 1-measure pattern when necessary.

Directions: Write ostinato patterns in the blank measures of the 2nd and 4th lines below, based on the first measure of each line.

The image shows four lines of musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time. Each line starts with a 2-measure ostinato pattern, followed by two blank measures for practice. The patterns are as follows:

- Line 1:** Chord G. Pattern: Quarter note G, quarter note A, quarter note B, quarter note A. Chord C. Pattern: Quarter note C, quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note D. Chord D. Pattern: Quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note F#, quarter note E.
- Line 2:** Chord G. Pattern: Quarter note G, quarter note A, quarter note B, quarter note A. Chord C. Pattern: Quarter note C, quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note D. Chord D. Pattern: Quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note F#, quarter note E.
- Line 3:** Chord G. Pattern: Quarter note G, quarter note A, quarter note B, quarter note A. Chord C. Pattern: Quarter note C, quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note D. Chord D. Pattern: Quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note F#, quarter note E.
- Line 4:** Chord G. Pattern: Quarter note G, quarter note A, quarter note B, quarter note A. Chord C. Pattern: Quarter note C, quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note D. Chord D. Pattern: Quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note F#, quarter note E.

Keyboard Exercise: After completing the written work, practice the four lines of ostinato patterns at least 5 times per day until they can be played easily and accurately.

Directions: Experiment to see which ostinato style sounds best with the first 8 measures of "Hawaiian Warrior's Dance." Listen to both the melody and chord changes. Write the one that sounds best. Experiment and write a different ostinato for the next 8 measures. The last 8 measures may repeat the 1st ostinato or use a new one.

You may make rhythmic alterations to the melody, if desired. Learn to play the entire piece.

HAWAIIAN WARRIOR'S DANCE

The image shows the musical notation for "Hawaiian Warrior's Dance" in treble and bass clef, 4/4 time. The tempo is marked "Allegro". The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The first 8 measures are shown, with the first 4 measures containing a 2-measure ostinato pattern for chord G, followed by 4 measures of the melody. The notation is as follows:

- Measures 1-4:** Chord G. Pattern: Quarter note G, quarter note A, quarter note B, quarter note A. Chord C. Pattern: Quarter note C, quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note D. Chord D. Pattern: Quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note F#, quarter note E.
- Measures 5-8:** Chord C. Pattern: Quarter note C, quarter note D, quarter note E, quarter note D. Chord G. Pattern: Quarter note G, quarter note A, quarter note B, quarter note A.