

Guitar Sight-Reading

Lesson Seven: The C Triad

Exercise One:

Two or more notes sounded at the same time are called a chord.

The most fundamental chords are called triads, because they are three combined notes.
The three notes of a triad are the 1st, 3rd and 5th of five consecutive notes.

The C triad is made from the notes C E and G.

Musical notation for Exercise One. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 8/8. It shows a scale of notes: C (1st), D (2nd), E (3rd), F (4th), G (5th), C (1st), E (3rd), G (5th). Below the notes are labels: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 1st, 3rd, 5th and C, D, E, F, G, C, E, G. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with strings labeled T, A, B. The fret numbers are: 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 3, 2, 0, 0, 2, 3.

Exercise Two:

When the notes of a chord are played one at a time, it is called a broken chord.

When the notes of a chord are played at the same time, it is called a blocked chord.

Musical notation for Exercise Two. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 8/8. It shows a broken chord (C-E-G) and a blocked chord (C-E-G). Below the notes are labels: Broken Chord and Blocked Chord.

Exercise Three:

The C triad can be any combination of the notes C E and G.

Root Position C Triad C - E - G.

First Inversion C Triad E - G - C.

Second Inversion C Triad G - C - E.

Musical notation for Exercise Three. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 8/8. It shows the C triad in Root Position, First Inversion, Second Inversion, and Root Position. Below the notes are labels: Root Position, First Inversion, Second Inversion, Root Position.

Exercise Four:

Count a steady beat in four, and play this rhythm of quarter notes and eighth notes.

Use the picking indicated.

8

Exercise Five:

The following exercise uses the three inversions of the C Triad.

Write the following notes in TAB and name the notes before playing the exercise with a steady beat.

8

C E G G E C C G E G C E E C G

TAB

3	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

19

8

TAB

23

8

TAB

Exercise Six:

The following sight-reading exercises use the C major triad in root position, first and second inversions.

Scan each line of music to see which notes are used. Prepare for the first note of the line.

Count a slow, steady beat, and play from the beginning of the line to the end.

