

# (Book 2) Lesson 29a.

## Chord Spelling

Having gained a good working knowledge of the notes on the first three strings of the guitar, we are now ready to begin the study of three note chords called "triads." Some theory is required here so we will begin at that point.

C D E F G A B C is the C alphabet. If we add letter names above each letter of the C alphabet, two letter names above each original letter will supply triads.

Each added note is three letters higher than the previous. C D E F G A B C  
1 2 3  
1 2 3

Example: 2nd added letter: G A B C D E F G  
1st added letter: E F G A B C D E  
Original letter: C D E F G A B C

The distance between these notes is called a third. The theoretical rule for determining Major Chords is to combine the First, Third and Fifth notes of any Major Scale.

"C-E-G" then, is a C Major chord. The notes of the chord are referred to as the Root, 3rd and 5th.



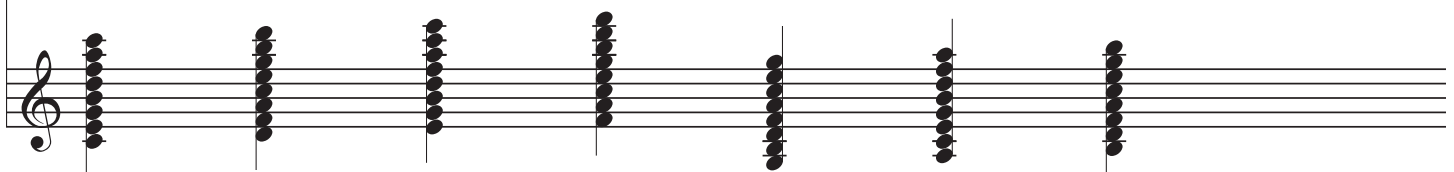
Because there are many other types of chords, we will include another theoretical practice for total chord spelling at this point...all in thirds.

Starting on "C" results in this: C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C  
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Starting on "D" results in this: D E F G A B C D E F G A B C D  
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

In the future, these will be referred to as "General Notes" or "Towers of Thirds". Practice spelling these note groups on a daily basis until they are well learned. Do not try to memorize them.

TOWERS OF THIRDS: shown below in musical notation. (last three written an octave lower for convenience.)



C 15	D 15	E 15	F 15	G 15	A 15	B 15
A 13	B 13	C 13	D 13	E 13	F 13	G 13
F 11	G 11	A 11	B 11	C 11	D 11	E 11
D 9	E 9	F 9	G 9	A 9	B 9	C 9
B 7	C 7	D 7	E 7	F 7	G 7	A 7
G 5	A 5	B 5	C 5	D 5	E 5	F 5
E 3	F 3	G 3	A 3	B 3	C 3	D 3
C Root	D Root	E Root	F Root	G Root	A Root	B Root

It would help to notice that in these long groupings, the top four notes of the first group are the same as the bottom four notes of the second group. The top four notes of the second group are the same as the bottom four of the third group, and so on. (There are only 7 chords in music!!! True or false?)