

# Chord Reading Studies

Important remarks about the musical notation.

The music in these studies and songs have been written in a slightly simplified style just for the ease of reading. The basic concept is to sustain the chord or perhaps a portion of the chord when it is followed by single notes which are compatible with that chord. Your ear will be the final judge in this department. In the example below, I have used slur lines to demonstrate that but in the studies, I have left that up to the player. No fingering is marked because the purpose of these studies is to look for all options.



Here is the same musical excerpt using more accurate rhythmic polyphony. In this simple tune, this musical notation does not seem to be particularly difficult to read but in a more intense example, it can quickly become a bit of a reading nightmare.



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(to Chord Reading Studies)

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11. Chord melody in "Bb" using triads and three part 7th chords

The following harmonized tunes are **not in order of difficulty**. It will be up to the player to choose the order of study.

12. "Thinking About Myself"
13. "Dark Orchids"
14. Examining the sus4 chord in the keys of C, F and G
15. "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" harmonized
16. Observing three part 9th, 11th and 13th chords
17. "Blue Cheese"
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22. "Ces't Moi"
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27. "Put An End To It"
28. "Standard Fare"
29. "Syncopassion Blues"
30. "Wafting"
31. "Cancion di Loco Coco"

### Additional remarks:

Many players are under the impression that there is a seemingly endless library of chord fingerings on the guitar. This may be due to the fact that there are so many guitar chord books on the market which advertise anywhere from a 1000 to 5000 chord fingerings for the guitar. Some books even have actual hand position photos of all of these chord fingerings. I would **not** have liked to be in on that photo session. It reminds me a bit of the episode of the TV sitcom "Friends" where Phoebe is trying to teach Joey how to play guitar without having him actually holding the guitar.

The science of music gives us thousands of options but the reality is that guitar players only have four fingers and 6 strings. This reduces the possibilities greatly. Physical reach also reduces the options.

On top of all of that, every musical key is a parallel of its neighbour so each key generates much the same fingerings.

Can you learn to read chords over night? **NO!** It takes practice and concentrated effort over a course of time.

You will notice that the entire book has been restricted to mostly guitar friendly keys. Even good readers tend to object in particular to keys containing a large number of flats. I have to admit that I also fall into that category. (G.A.)