

Great! We've got the keyboard under control, the finger still feel like spaghetti, but at least we know what's supposed to happen; we've got a handle on not only major chords, but minor chords and maybe even sevenths! **WHEW!**

But...even with all of this, there's still something missing: just playing chords doesn't make it, 'cause just like some keys don't sound right together, some chords don't exactly mix well with other chords. So... Is there **a rule for finding which chords sound OK together?**

Ahem...

...yep.

And it's just as simple as the chord-making one:

you're	to find which other chords go with the main chord
chord, and	playing, start with the root note of the main
one.	SKIP OVER FOUR (4) keys, landing on the next
way everything	This one is called "the fourth" (isn't it nice the
KEY,	is named ?), and then SKIP OVER ONE MORE
guessed it "the fifth").	and land on the next (cleverly called, you

For example, if your main chord is the C-major chord, then the fourth is "F" and the fifth is "G". (C skipping over 4 is F and F skipping over 1 is G). SO, the chords which work best with C are F and G.

Try counting these out yourself, and remember, the rules applies no matter where you start, so you don't have to start on "C".

(There's another way to get the same result, if you can't remember skip 4, skip 1: you can get there by skipping 4 to the right and skipping 4 to the left as well. Really...try it! It works!)

So, now we know that the fourth and fifth chords work with a root chord. Let's use the right term: the root, or main chord, is called "the key" in which you are playing. (You've heard them say "shall we play this is the key of G?" Well, all that means is that they are starting with the G chord.

(Be sure you can count to see that the other chords which work with G are C and D...just testing...)

For what it's worth, generally it's the fifth which is used more than the fourth...

All right! Practice time! Try this: just like we did with the chords, sometimes you play all three notes at once, and sometimes just one or two of them in any order you liked, well... try that using the root chord, the fourth and fifth chords.

Stick with the "C" "F" "G" series for a while, then move on to other roots. Playing all three notes of the chord, play "C" "F" "G" and then "C" again.

Then try that pattern playing the individual notes of each chord one at a time.

Then try playing the C F & G with your left hand, all three notes at a time, and playing C F G (in any order) with individual notes of the chord with your right hand...

CAREFUL: You're ACTUALLY MAKING MUSIC HERE! Congratulations.

MINOR LEAGUES

Surely you have guessed by now that, if there are keys and a rule for making major chords, (skip 3 skip 2) and a way to make that a minor chord (move finger 3 one to the left), then surely there must be, besides a way to get the major chords which go together (skip 4 skip 1) a way to get

the minor chords for the key we're playing in as well.

Sho' 'nuf!

The minor chords are SKIP 2 to the left of the
root,
the fourth and the fifth.

Thus, if we're playing in C, the fourth is F and
the fifth is G.

minor chord in

Skip two to the left of C is A, so Am is a good

this series;

skip two to the left of F is D, so Dm is good;
and finally, skip two to the left of G is E, and

Em is a good

minor key with C, F and G.

(These are just regular old minor chords: if you want to use them, you already know how – just move your middle finger over 1 key to the left.)