

ou've probably seen, or even own, those books of music which have letters every now and then above the music bars: "C", "F", "G", and so on. Well, those are the chords you're supposed to play at that point in the music.

We have just learned how to make those chords: if you want a "C" chord, press down on the "C" key, skip 3 (press "E") skip 2 (press "G"); if we want an "F" chord, press down on "F" (skip 3) press "A" (skip 2) press "C" and so on...

But what is a chord like "Cm" or "Gm" or "Fm"?

Well, the little "m" means "minor", and making one is pretty simple. Just make the chord with the rules we already know: skip 3, skip 2. **BUT, before you press down take the third** (remember? that's the one we'll be pressing after skipping 3...) **move your finger to the left by one key**. The root and the fifth stay where they were.

If you're doing this like I suggested, then your thumb (1) is on the root, your middle finger (3) is on the third, and your pinky (5) is on the fifth. (see how the finger numbers are the same as the notes?) **All you have to do to make a minor chord is move one finger, your middle finger (3) to the left (or "down") to the next lower key.**

So, try it: make a "C" chord, then leaving your thumb and pinky (1 and 5) on the keys, lift your middle finger (3) and put it down on the next key to its left. Then move it back. Listen, and you'll hear that the difference between a minor and a major chord is really easy to hear.

**TO MAKE A MINOR CHORD,
MOVE THE THIRD DOWN BY ONE KEY.**

major chord that is

you now so

Actually, there's one other variation on the

common. It's a little harder to hit, but I'll tell

you'll know where to find it later.

That's the seventh: as in ""C7", "G7" and so on. It's harder to hit because it usually means you have to use FOUR keys to make the chord, (although sometimes you can get away with leaving out the fifth and hitting the seventh instead, requiring only three keys.)

Anyhow, if you want to find [the key which makes a major-7th, it is the key skipping over one to the left of the root.](#)

Thus the 7th for the key of C is Bb/A# (the black key to the left of "C".) I don't want to confuse you with this, so you can safely skip the 7th until later.