

MAJOR & MINOR TRIAD CHORD FORMS

IN THIS SECTION WE'LL START TO LOOK AT BASIC MAJOR AND MINOR TRIADS ON THE GUITAR. SO AS NOT TO TURN THIS INTO AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EVERY POSSIBLE WAY PLAY THEM ON EVERY CONCEIVABLE SET OF STRINGS, I HAVE BROKEN THEM DOWN INTO 3 SERIES OF FORMS THAT I HAVE FOUND TO BE MOST USEFUL FOR STRAIGHT FORWARD PLAYING AND AS SEEDS FOR MORE COMPLEX CHORDS TO GROW FROM.

THE FORMS ARE DIVIDED UP INTO MAJOR AND MINOR TRIADS ON THREE CONSECUTIVE STRINGS STARTING ON THE A STRING, THE D STRING, AND THE G STRING. I HAVE PASSED UP ON TRIADS FROM THE LOW E STRING FOR ESSENTIALLY TWO REASONS. FIRST, THEY ARE JUST TOO MUDDY SOUNDING DOWN THAT LOW, AND SECOND, THE FORMS THEMSELVES WILL BE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE ONES STARTING ON THE A STRING. SO IF YOU CAN VISUALIZE THEM FROM THE A STRING THEN THEY WILL BE THE EXACT SAME FORMS OFF THE E STRING TOO IF YOU SHOULD NEED THEM.

A NOTE ABOUT LEARNING THESE FORMS

AT FIRST GLANCE THESE FORMS CAN SEEM A BIT CONFUSING AND PERHAPS IT WOULD BE HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD NEED TO KNOW THESE SEEMINGLY PUNY LITTLE TRIAD FORMS, WHY CAN'T WE JUST GET ON THE MORE "EXPENSIVE CHORDS" (AS ONE OF MY STUDENTS WOULD SOMETIMES REFER TO 4 AND 5 NOTE CHORDS)?

THE ANSWER IS SEVERAL-FOLD. TO SOME DEGREE, YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO CRAWL BEFORE YOU CAN WALK. ALSO, BESIDES THEIR EXTENSIVE DIRECT USE IN ALL KINDS OF MUSIC INCLUDING MOTOWN, ROCK, AND METAL (TO NAME JUST A FEW), MANY MORE HARMONICALLY ADVANCED GUITARIST USE THESE TRIAD FORMS TO IMPLY ALL SORTS OF WAY MORE INTRICATE HARMONIES. AN ENTIRE BOOK COULD BE DEDICATED TO THIS VERY SUBJECT ALONE. ALSO, IF YOU CAN LEARN TO "SEE" THESE FORMS, YOU CAN LEARN TO EXTRAPOLATE PAST THESE LITTLE BABIES AND START EXTENDING THEM INTO ALL SORTS OF OTHER MANIFESTATIONS. IF YOU'VE EVER PICKED APART ANY JIMI HENDRIX FOR INSTANCE, YOU'LL KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO WHAT HE'S DOING WITHOUT TRIADS. TRY TO USE THEM IN A MUSICAL SENTENCE. TRY FOR INSTANCE Dm, B \flat , F, C AND TRY A FEW COMBINATIONS OF NEARBY TRIADS ACROSS A FEW DIFFERENT STRING GROUPS TO GET A FEEL FOR THIS. OR "YOU CAN'T HURRY LOVE" BY THE SUPREMES.

MAJOR & MINOR TRIAD CHORD FORMS

C MAJOR TRIAD FORMS IN ALL THREE INVERSIONS

FROM THE A STRING

FROM THE D STRING

FROM THE G STRING

C MINOR TRIAD FORMS IN ALL THREE INVERSIONS

FROM THE A STRING

FROM THE D STRING

FROM THE G STRING

WITH ALL OF THESE FORMS IT IS VITAL THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY EACH CHORD CLEARLY FOR YOURSELF SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ACTUALLY USE THESE FORMS IN REAL LIVE MUSIC SITUATIONS.