

Gondola Music

WRITTEN BY
TIMOTHY GONDOLA

JAZZ STARTER PACK

The essential
guide for every
jazz learner!

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Welcome	1
Jazz Standards By Difficulty	2
Essential Jazz Artists	3
Essential Jazz Discography	4
Jazz Terminology	6
Anatomy Of A Chord Symbol	9
Chord symbols and structure	9
Extensions	11
Slash Chords	12
Voicings	13
Polychords	14
Sus Chords	15
Add Chords	16
Quirks	16
Chord symbol chart	17
Chord symbol keyboard chart	18
Scale Degrees	19
Roman Numerals	22
Gondola Music Resources	24

Welcome

Welcome to Gondola Music!

ABOUT

Gondola Music is a music content, music education, and education technology platform founded by classical and jazz pianist Timothy Gondola.

Gondola Music is currently developing transcriptions, courses, music tutorials, the Music In Motion blog, and theory notes. Our future plans involve expanding into music curriculum, software, academia and literature.

The vision of Gondola Music is to unite musicians, democratize jazz, and bring the world along a journey of musical enlightenment.



JAZZ STARTER PACK

In this starter pack, I've compiled all that a jazz musician– whether experienced or brand new– will need to know. You'll find everything from jazz theory to past and present icons, to the jazz lingo we use at jam sessions.

The lists of preeminent jazz artists and albums are in *no* way exhaustive; there are multitudes of significant artists and records that didn't make it onto these pages. It's up to you to explore and discover them!

To learn about the history of jazz, [click here](#) or visit [britannica.com/art/jazz/](https://www.britannica.com/art/jazz/)

To support Gondola Music & Timothy's YouTube channel, consider [becoming a patron](#). [patreon.com/TimothyGondola](https://www.patreon.com/TimothyGondola)

50 Jazz Standards By Difficulty

Beginner

- [All Blues](#)
- [All Of Me](#)
- [Autumn Leaves](#)
- [Blue Bossa](#)
- [Blue Monk](#)
- [But Not For Me](#)
- [Bye Bye Blackbird](#)
- [C-Jam Blues](#)
- [Doxy](#)
- [Footprints](#)
- [I'll Remember April](#)
- [In A Mellow Tone](#)
- [Mr. P.C.](#)
- [Lady Bird](#)
- [Solar](#)
- [So What](#)
- [Summertime](#)
- [Take The A Train](#)

TIP: Click the names to learn about the songs on learnjazzstandards.com

Intermediate

- [All The Things You Are](#)
- [Alone Together](#)
- [A Night In Tunisia](#)
- [Cherokee](#)
- [Days Of Wine & Roses](#)
- [East Of The Sun](#)
- [Fly Me To The Moon](#)
- [Groovin'](#)
- [Harlem Nocturne](#)

Free Sample

- [Alice In Wonderland](#)
- [Anthracite Coal](#)
- [C Jam Blues](#)
- [C Jam Blues](#)

Essential Jazz Artists

Trumpet



- Miles Davis
- Dizzy Gillespie
- Louis Armstrong
- Clifford Brown
- Chet Baker
- Freddie Hubbard
- Roy Hargrove
- Wynton Marsalis

Saxophone



- Charlie Parker
- John Coltrane
- Ornette Coleman
- Stan Getz
- Sonny Rollins
- Dexter Gordon
- Joshua Redman
- Patrick Bartley

Piano



- Art Tatum
- Bill Evans
- Red Garland
- Oscar Peterson
- Dave Brubeck
- Nat King Cole
- Johnny Costa
- Keith Jarrett
- Chick Corea
- Herbie Hancock
- Thelonious Monk

Bass



- Charles Mingus
- Scott LaFaro
- Ron Carter

Drums



Free Sample

Essential Jazz Discography

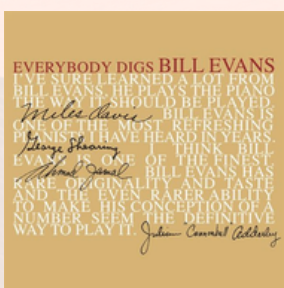
1/2



Kind Of Blue

Year: 1959

Artist: Miles Davis



Everybody Digs Bill Evans

Year: 1959

Artist: Dave Brubeck



A Love S

Year:

Ar



Free Sample

Jazz Terminology

1/3

Blow

To play your instrument (usually refers to a saxophonist/trumpeter blowing their horn).

Cat

A cool musician.

Chart/Chord Chart

The chord progression of a tune written out with chord symbols, either with melody.

Chops

Technical skills and dexterity on your instrument, usually involving playing quickly.

Combo

"Jazz combo" A small jazz group like a trio, quartet, or quintet.

Comping

Playing rhythmic accompanying chords, primarily on piano.

Changes

The chord progression.

Head

May refer either to (1) the beginning of a tune or (2) the first ending. Jazz and other artists often use the term to refer to the beginning of a tune and return to the beginning.

Horn

Stand-in

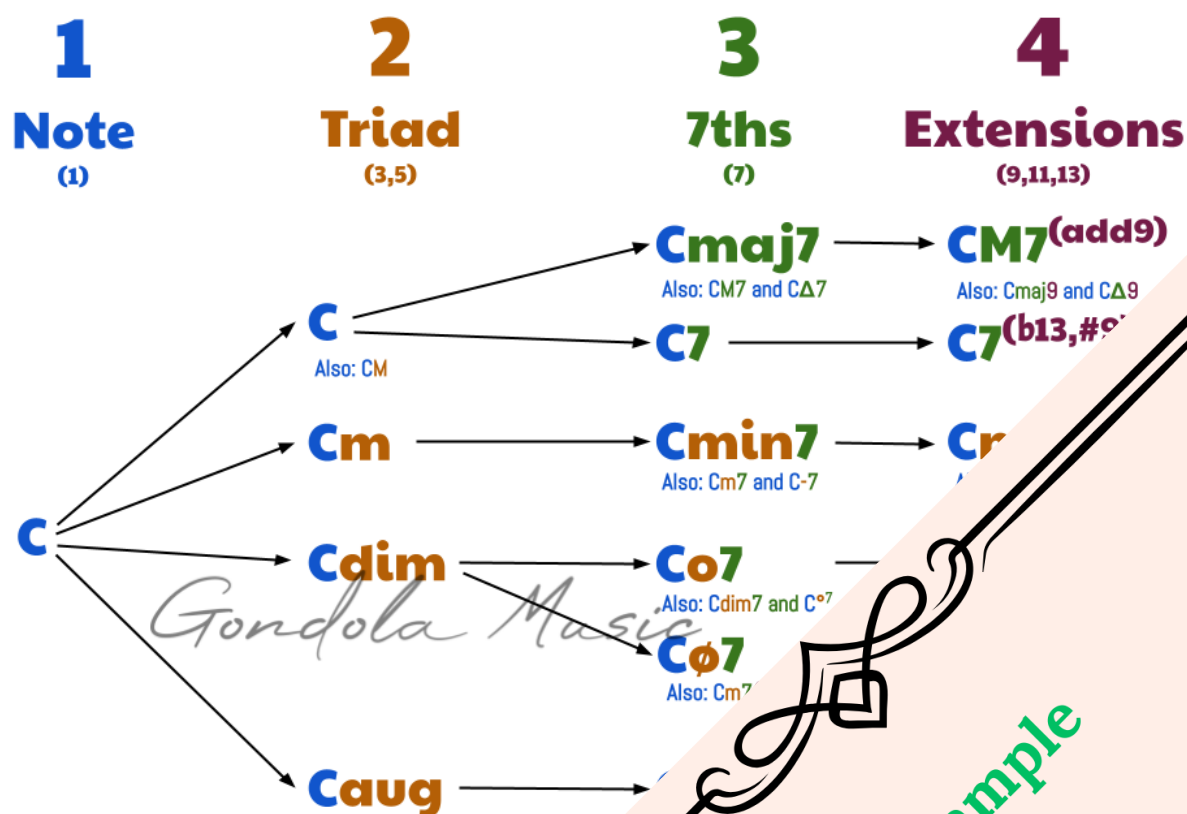
F-

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Anatomy of a chord symbol

Chord symbology is a method of classifying and symbolizing different chord qualities.

1. The **first letter** in a chord symbol is always the **key of the chord**. This is also referred to as the tonic, the one, the home note, or scale degree one.
2. The next figure in a chord symbol (M, m, dim, aug) refers to the **quality of the triad**– is it **major, minor, diminished or augmented**? “Triads” refer to three-note chords made up of the 1, 3 and 5 (scale degrees). When the letter is standalone, this refers to a major triad. So if you see **C** this means C major triad. **A** stands for A major triad.
3. The **7** is the dominant 7, or **flat seventh scale degree**. Thus, the 7 in **C7** is Bb. “**Seventh chords**” refers to four-note chords made up of the 1, 3, 5 and 7.
4. Extensions are the **9th, 11th, and 13th scale degrees** of a chord. These can either be natural (e.g. C9), sharp (e.g. F7#11) or flat (e.g. G7b13).



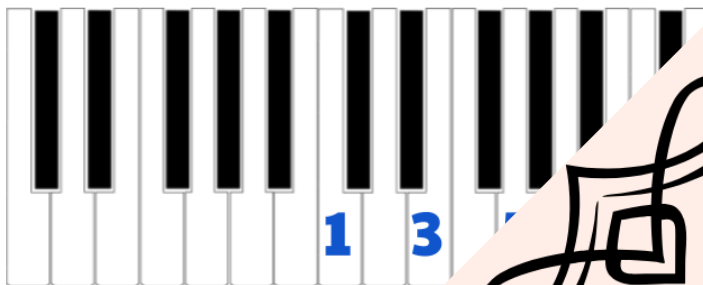
Scale Degrees

In order to understand music theory, chord symbology, and roman numerals you must know **scale degrees**. There are **seven** scale degrees, each corresponding to one note in the major scale, or the interval (second, third, fourth, etc.)

Oftentimes the scale degree of a chord is mentioned only as the number: “play the **6** [in that C chord]” or “E minor has a **flat 3**” or “the augmented triad has a **sharp 5**.” To flat a scale degree means to move the note down a half-step, and to sharp a scale degree means to move the note up a half-step.

The most important scale degree in any chord is the **1 (tonic)**, the first and foundation note. The second most important scale degree is the **5 (dominant)**. If we add the **3 (mediant)**, we now have the skeleton for some beautiful chords. **7ths** and **extensions** (explained ahead) are the key to those awesome 7th chords. Scale degrees repeat every new octave; so if you’re in the 1st octave, D on the piano will be a 2, every B will be a 7, etc.

Key of C- Scale degrees

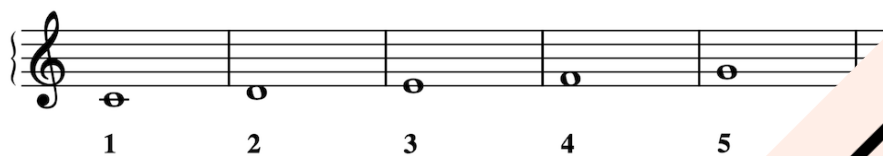


Free Sample

Roman Numeral Analysis In Jazz, Pop, and Rock

In addition to using standard chord symbols (e.g. Cmaj7, E7, etc.) we also use **Roman Numeral Analysis**. Roman numerals have the benefit of helping musicians easily transpose a piece to any key. As long as you are familiar with how to play chords in every key, and the **scale degrees** of each key, you can quickly play a song in all 12 keys with a Roman numeral chart. This is in contrast to the standard *chord symbol* chart, which is only helpful for one key.

Roman numerals are built off scale degrees, the seven tones of a major scale. Another way to say this is that the Roman numeral notes are **diatonic**, they belong to the major scale of the given key. In the key of C, these notes are C (1), D (2), E (3), F (4), G (5), A (6), B (7).



Using the notes of the **home key** (in the case of C major) we **build triads upon the scale tones**. Capital letters indicate a major triad, while lower case indicates a minor triad. The letter 'dim' indicates a diminished triad. This is a triad with a flat 3rd scale degree.

It is important to realize that when we say 'D minor' in the key of C, they are referring to a D minor triad.



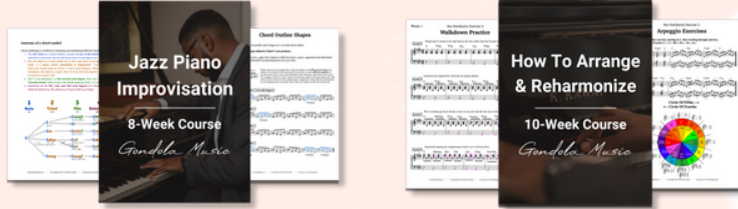
You'll notice that the notes of the triad are the same as the notes of the key you're in.



Free Sample

Gondola Music Resources

Courses (gondolamusic.co/courses)



Notes (gondolamusic.co/notes)

Slash chords

In your musical journey you will probably stumble upon slash chords. Every seventh chord can also be represented by a slash chord. For instance, the Cmaj7 shown below can be considered an E minor triad (Em: E-G-B) over the note C. This slash chord would be Em/C. The note underneath the slash is the bass note, meaning the lowest note of a chord.

Blog (gondolamusic.co/blog)



Modes & Scales (gondolamusic.co/shop/scales-modes)

Bebop Melodic Minor (2) Scale

Tutorials (gondolamusic.co/shop/tutorials)



Transcriptions (youtube.com/@timothygondola)

Mirage
As played by Oscar Peterson

Composed by Oscar Peterson
Transcribed by Timothy Gondola
tgondolamusic@gmail.com

En Avril à Paris
As played by Marc-André Hamelin

Composed by Charles Tresset
Adapted by Alexis Weissenberg
Transcribed by Timothy Gondola
tgondolamusic@gmail.com

Vivace Good and playful tempo rubato

Paranoid Android
As Played By Scott Bradlee

Composed by Radiohead
Transcribed by Timothy Gondola
tgondolamusic@gmail.com

♩ = 230
♩ = 90BPM
Cm Bm/D E5/G Adim F7 D7