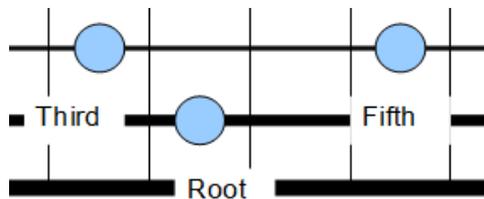


Lesson No. 4: The Major Arpeggio

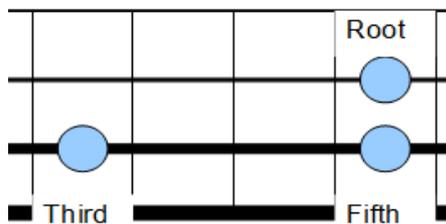
As explained in the previous lesson rock, pop and jazz tunes are based on chord changes. In this lesson we are going to take a closer look at the **major chord**.

The major chord consists of 3 notes: The root (after which the chord is named), the (major) third and the fifth. We already know the root and the fifth from the previous lesson. In this lesson we will practice two ways - so-called **fingerings** - to play the major chord. Playing the notes of a chord one after another is called an **arpeggio** or a **broken chord**.

With the first fingering for the major chord we play the third and the fifth above the root. The third is on the next higher string one fret below and the fifth is on the same string 2 frets higher. Schematically:



The second fingering is used to play the third and the fifth below the root. The third is 3 frets lower on the next lower string, the fifth on the same fret directly below the root.

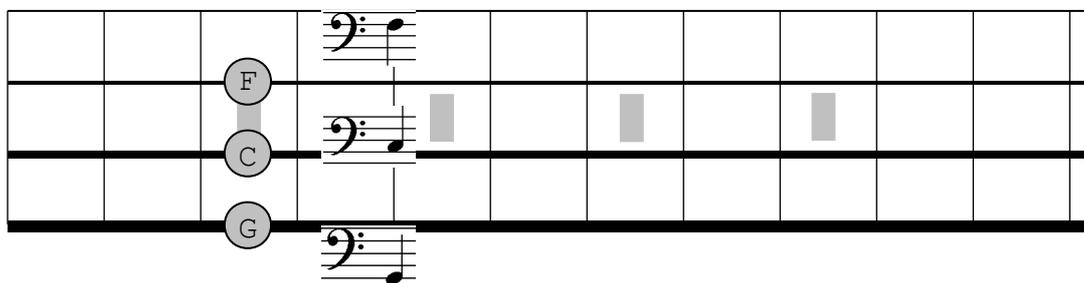


As a bass guitar player you should know these fingerings by heart to quickly find the third and the fifth with a given root.

To get you started the first lessons were played in a high position because it is easier to fret. In the following we will concentrate more on the lower positions. They are, of course, more important because as a bass guitar player you are responsible for the low-pitched notes in the band.

Exercise 1

In the first exercise we play the third and the fifth above the root. The exercise is played in the 2nd position. The following root notes are used:



You have to find the remaining notes yourself. Refer to the note finder and use the first fingering from above.

a)

Exercise a) consists of three musical staves in bass clef, each with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: C (2nd fret, 1st string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), C (2nd fret, 1st string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string)
- Staff 2: C (2nd fret, 1st string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string), C (2nd fret, 1st string)
- Staff 3: C (2nd fret, 1st string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string)

b)

Exercise b) consists of three musical staves in bass clef, each with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: C (2nd fret, 1st string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), C (2nd fret, 1st string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string)
- Staff 2: C (2nd fret, 1st string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string), C (2nd fret, 1st string)
- Staff 3: C (2nd fret, 1st string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string)

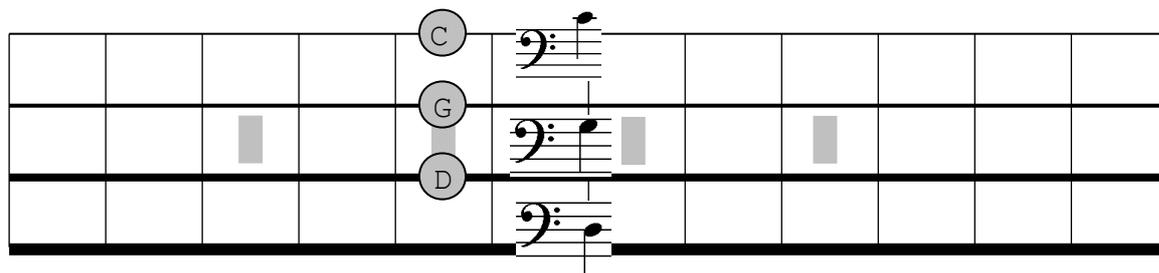
c)

Exercise c) consists of three musical staves in bass clef, each with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: C (2nd fret, 1st string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), C (2nd fret, 1st string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string)
- Staff 2: C (2nd fret, 1st string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string), C (2nd fret, 1st string)
- Staff 3: C (2nd fret, 1st string), F (3rd fret, 3rd string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string), G (3rd fret, 2nd string)

Exercise 2

In this exercise we play the third and the fifth below the root. Here are the root notes:



Look for the remaining notes in the note finder and use the second fingering from above. Caution: There is the key signature F# so you have to play F# instead of F! (See also the theory part of the preceding lesson)

a)

b)

c)