

Lesson #13: The Major Arpeggio with Eighth notes

In Lesson #6 we learned two variants of the major arpeggio: The one with the root at the top, the other with the root at the bottom. In this lesson we will learn a third variant where the root is in the middle between third and fifth.

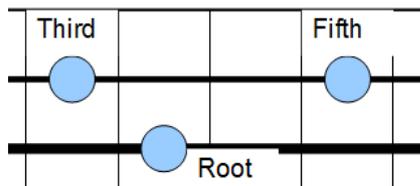
Those three variants are called **inversions**. The idea is the following: We start with the **root position**, where the order is: root, third, fifth. When we move up the bottom note to the top we get the **first inversion**: third, fifth, root. Performing the same action again it results in the **second inversion**: fifth, third, root. So it's obvious that there is no such thing as a third inversion because another moving up would bring us back to the root position again.

The fingerings on the bass guitar are partly known already, here are they again in an overview:

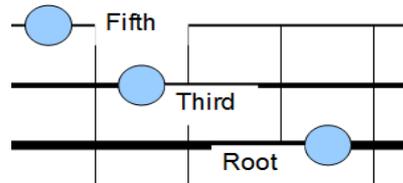
The major arpeggio

Root position:

Fingering 1

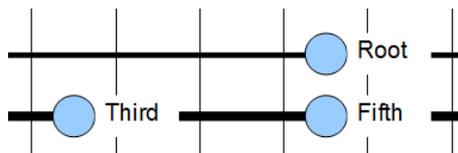


Fingering 2

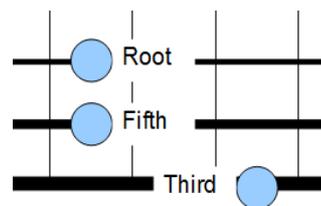


First inversion

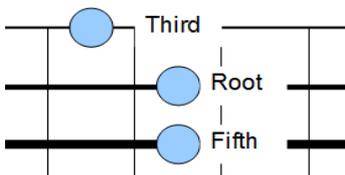
Fingering 1



Fingering 2



Second inversion



All inversions can be played upwards and downwards. We will practice both.

To become an accomplished bassist you will need to know all those fingerings by heart. Learning them is not easy. Every time you start to practice you should take your time looking at the diagrams above. Try to find correlations. For example the relative positions of the root and the third are the same on the first fingering for root position and the fingering for

second inversion. Decomposing the diagrams into their elements like that will help you to remember them.

Exercises

The exercises use mainly the above fingerings at some places that is not possible however, it is then noted. Verify the note's positions with the notefinder. Identify the corresponding fingerings when you use it. Pay attention to the fact you have to combine both fingerings to be able to stay in the same position (cf. Lesson #6).

1 a) Root position bottom-up (Caution: for E major you have to change in the first position)

1 b) Root position top-down (Caution: for E major you have to change in the first position)

2 a) First inversion bottom-up

2 b) First inversion top-down

C F G C

G C G D

A E D E

3 a) Second inversion bottom-up (Caution: For A major you have to use the open E string. For E major you have to change in the first position)

C F G C

G C G D

A E D E

3 b) Second position top-down (Caution: For A major you have to use the open E string. For E major you have to change in the first position)

C F G C

G C G D

A E D E