

MUSIC LESSONS II Chords and Harmony - Quick Start Guide

Pedagogy

MUSIC LESSONS II develops all four essential musical skill areas: visual identification, written notation, playing (piano and guitar), and ear training. In **MUSIC LESSONS II** we refer to the first three of these skills as Naming, Writing, and Playing. Every drill in **MUSIC LESSONS II**, including the Ear Training (ET) drills, can be done in the Naming, Writing, and Playing activities.

The NAMING, WRITING, and PLAYING Activities

Choose the Triads drill from the Drill menu. The three study activities, Naming, Writing, and Playing, are also found in the drill menu. You can switch between activities by selecting from the menu or by using the icons on the toolbar. The Naming icon has the eyeglasses, the Writing icon has the pencil, and the Playing icon has the hand. Click the Activity icons and notice how the presentation of the questions and the method for answering them change.

The Ear Training Activities

There are two ear training drills: Triads ET, and Seventh Chords ET. The ear training drills can also be done in the Naming, Writing, and Playing activities.

Drills

Choose the Drill menu. There are 6 main drills you can choose from: Chord Elements, Triads, Triads ET, Seventh Chords, Seventh Chords ET, and Roman Numerals.

Multiple Skill Levels

After you've selected the drill, choose the Level menu. You'll see multiple levels of difficulty for each drill. The items in the Level menu change from drill to drill, so that students can work on drills at difficulty levels appropriate to them. The Level menu has three or four subdrill categories listed first in the menu. Following those are modifier items. For example, in the Triads drill you can work on Diatonic Chords, using major and minor qualities in root position.

Multiple Clefs

Choose the Clef menu. You can choose between treble, bass, alto, and tenor clefs. You can also choose the Grand Staff. In the Grand Staff naming drills you can choose between open and closed voicings, and three and four part triads. You can also choose Random Clefs to specify clefs that will alternate between questions.

Difficulty Menu

The Difficulty menu has three settings: Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced. The Beginning setting uses the keys of C major and a minor. The Intermediate setting uses keys with up to three sharps and three flats. The Advanced setting uses all keys.

Answering Questions

In the Naming activity you answer questions by clicking the appropriate buttons to describe the answer. In the Writing activity you answer questions by drawing notes on the music staff, using the drawing tools that are provided. In the Playing activity you answer questions by playing the correct notes on the piano keyboard. There is also a guitar fretboard in the program.

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Music Theory Reference

Click the question mark icon on the drill window toolbar. A window will appear with a complete Chords and Harmony Music Theory Reference that's always available for students.

Progress Reports

After you've answered some questions, choose "New Progress Report" from the file menu. A window will appear showing you detailed statistics of your scores. Progress Report files can be saved and printed. When you save a Progress Report, you'll see three lines showing dates in the upper portion of the Progress Report window. Each day that you use the program and save your scores, a new date line will be added. It's easy to go back and see what scores students had for particular assignments. The cumulative scores line shows all of the drills done over a period of time. It can be used for end of the term assessments.

There is no limit to the number of student progress report files that can be created.

Custom Levels

You can create your own custom drills by using commands in the Level menu. The drills you create can be saved for future use. Custom Levels let you tailor the program to work on very specific skills. For example, in the triads ear training drill you could create a drill that would work with major and minor triads in first inversion.

There's a lot more in the program. Skim through the User Guide and Reference Manual for details.