

## How to build chords

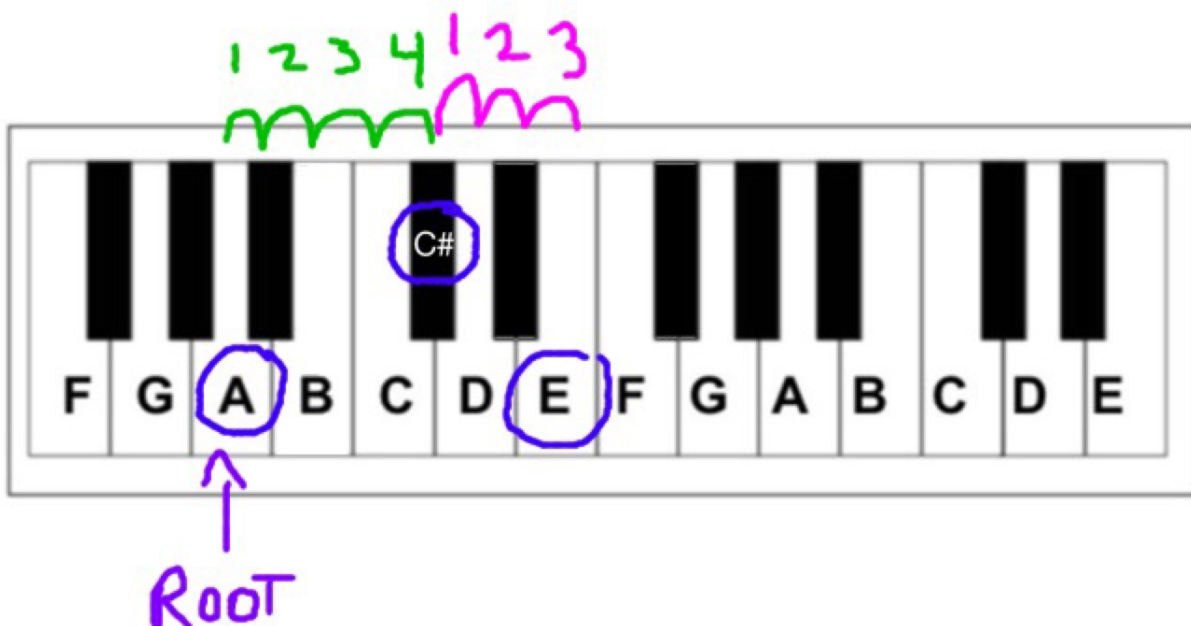
### 3-Step formula to build any Major Chord

There is an easy 3-step formula for building any major triad (a triad is a 3-note chord).

#### Let's use A Major as an example.

1. **Start from the root of the chord.** That is the first note of your chord.
2. The root of an A Major chord is "A".
3. **Move 4 half-steps to the right.** That is the second note of your chord.
4. 4 half-steps up from "A" is "C#". This interval is called a **major third**.  
**What's a half step?** *one note, regardless whether it is black or white, in either direction from the current note. Example, C# is a half step above C, and E is a half step below F*
5. **Move 3 more half-steps to the right.** That is the third note of your chord.
6. 3 half-steps up from "C#" is "E". This interval is called a **minor third**.
7. *Tip: to turn a major chord into a minor chord, lower the middle note one half step (only works in root position). Example, lower the "C#" in the A major chord below one half step to a "C"*

### Building an A Major Chord: Root, 4 half steps, 3 half steps



### 3-Step formula to build any minor chord

There is also an easy 3 step formula to build any minor chord. In fact, it is the same as the formula for building a major chord, just flipped!

**Instead of the major chord formula:**

root, up 4 half-steps (**major third**), up 3 half-steps (**minor third**).

**the minor chord formula is:**

root, up 3 half-steps (**minor third**), up 4 half-steps (**major third**).

**Let's use Cm as an example:**

1. **Start from the root of the chord.** That is the first note of your chord.
2. The root of a Cm chord is "C".
3. **Move 3 half-steps to the right.** That is the second note of your chord.
4. 3 half-steps up from "C" is "Eb".
5. **Move 4 more half-steps to the right.** That is the third note of your chord.
6. 4 half-steps up from "Eb" is "G".
7. *Tip: to turn a minor chord into a major chord, raise the middle note one half step (only works in root position). Example, raise the "Eb" in the C minor chord below one half step to a "E"*

**Building a Cm chord:  
Root, 3 half steps, 4 half steps**

