MIDIdocs

Chords

Forum Discussion Thread - for comments, corrections, or questions about this article

When you initialize a track as a CHORD track type, the first parameter layer is a special “chord” layer. Data on this layer is represented as upper or lower case letters with an octave offset. The letters on CHORD layers are not related to note names - For example, a “C” is not necessarily a C chord.

When not transposed, the chords in a chord layer are all C chord variants. You can play other chords by transposing the chord track. If you're not up on your music theory, you might want to use Force-To-Scale when transposing chords to ensure that your results are always in key.

When not transposed, the letters correspond to the following chords:

- **A-C:** Major I, Major II, Major III (transposed variants)
  - **A:** C Major (Root position) (notes: C E G)
  - **B:** C Major (1st inversion) (notes: E G C)
  - **C:** C Major (2nd inversion) (notes: G C E)
- **D-F:** Root note, 3rd note, 5th note (single notes)
  - **D:** note: C
  - **E:** note: E
  - **F:** note: G
- **G,H:** Root+3rd, Root+5th
  - **G:** notes: C E
  - **H:** notes: C G
- **I-N:** Maj6, Maj7, Maj8, Maj9, Maj10, Maj12 (4-note chords)
  - **I:** C Maj6 (notes: C E G A)
  - **J:** C Maj7 (notes: C E G B)
  - **K:** C Maj8 (notes: C E G C)
  - **L:** C Maj9 (notes: C E G D)
  - **M:** C Maj10 (notes: C G C E)
  - **N:** C Maj12 (notes: C G C G)
- **O-P:** Sus4 and Maj+
  - **O:** C Sus4 (notes: C F G)
  - **P:** C Maj+ (notes: C E G#)
- **a-c:** Minor I, Minor II, Minor III (transposed variants)
  - **a:** C Minor (Root position) (notes: C D# G)
  - **b:** C Minor (1st inversion) (notes: D# G C)
  - **c:** C Minor (2nd inversion) (notes: G C D#)
- **d-f:** Root note, 3rd Min. note, 5th note (single notes)
  - **d:** note: C
  - **e:** note: D#
  - **f:** note: G

- **g,h:** Root+3rd min, Root+5th
  - **g:** notes: C D#
  - **h:** notes: C G
- **i-n:** Min6, Min7, Min8, Min9, Min10, Min12 (4-note chords)
  - **i:** C Min6 (notes: C D# G A)
  - **j:** C Min7 (notes: C D# G B)
  - **k:** C Min8 (notes: C D# G C)
  - **l:** C Min9 (notes: C D# G D)
  - **m:** C Min10 (notes: C G C E)
  - **n:** C Min12 (notes: C G C F#)
- **o-p:** CoG and Min+
  - **o:** CoG (notes: C F G)
  - **p:** C Min+ (notes: C E G#)

Resources

- Tutorial on how to use chords, transposition, and loopback to play a chord progression - with audio examples.
- Forum Thread discussing how chord tracks and transposition/force-to-scale works on the SEQ

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