

Rob's Piano Room - Module 2 - PDF
Basic Progressions, and Improvising With Only Chord Tones

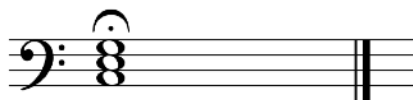
Main points

- When playing LH chord with RH melody, the melody will relate to the notes of the chord
- We will start just by getting used to playing the notes of the left hand chord individually in the right hand, making a melody
- We'll try this first just on the I chord, then with a few simple chord progressions
- When a chord changes, most often the last melody note of one chord will try to move closely to the first note of the next chord.
- Try all of this first without a time signature (freely, without counting), then try in time
When in time, you may want to use fewer notes in the right hand as you get comfortable, especially when the left hand is playing rhythmically

Exercises (We will stay in C for the first few modules, if you are able to try other keys, feel free)

See sample LH examples, and two hand examples at the end of this document.

Ex. 1 Play the C triad in your left hand. As you hold, play notes of this triad individually in the right, one at a time, freely (without counting). In right hand, try all of: moving closely, skipping around, alternating between two notes, repeating notes, and various combinations of these.



Ex. 2 Repeat exercise 1, this time in a time signature. First, just count out loud, then try using figurations as below. Try 4/4 and 3/4. You might start with only one or two notes per bar at first in your right hand, until your left hand is comfortable.



Ex. 3. Play the I triad (C major) then V (G major) then I again in your left hand. Then, play again, while, out of time, making melodies by playing notes of the current chord in your right hand, one at a time as above (in free time for now).

Note that as your left hand chords change, your right hand note choices change to the notes of the new chord

As you move from chord to chord, try to have the last melody note of one chord move closely to the first melody note of the next. This may not happen 100% of the time in practice, but is the norm and is important to get used to

(SEE I-V-I LEFT HAND EXAMPLES ON FOLLOWING PAGES)

Ex. 4 Repeat exercise 3, this time in a time signature. First, just count out loud, then try using figurations as seen in the examples on the following pages.. Try 4/4 and 3/4. You might start with only one or two notes per bar at first in your right hand, until your left hand is comfortable.

(SEE I-V-I LEFT HAND EXAMPLES ON FOLLOWING PAGES)

Ex. 5 Repeat exercises 3 and 4, but this time with I-IV-I .

(SEE I-IV-I LEFT HAND EXAMPLES ON FOLLOWING PAGES)

Ex. 6 Repeat exercises 3 and 4, but this time with I-IV-V-I .

(SEE I-IV-V-I LEFT HAND EXAMPLES ON FOLLOWING PAGES)

I-V-I LEFT HAND EXAMPLES

A single bass clef staff showing three chords: C major (C-E-G), F major (F-A-C), and C major (C-E-G). Each chord is marked with a circled letter above it: C, F, and C.

A bass clef staff in 4/4 time with four measures of chords: C, F, C, C. Below the staff, the counts for each measure are: count: 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4.

A bass clef staff in 4/4 time with four measures of chords: C, F, F, C. Below the staff, the counts for each measure are: count: 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4.

A bass clef staff in 4/4 time with four measures of chords: C, F, F, F. Below the staff, the counts for each measure are: count: 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4.

A bass clef staff in 4/4 time with four measures of chords: C, F, C, C. Below the staff, the letters I, V, I, I are written under each measure.

A bass clef staff in 4/4 time with four measures of chords: C, C, F, C. Below the staff, the letters I, I, V, I are written under each measure.

A bass clef staff in 4/4 time with four measures of chords: C, F, F, C. Below the staff, the letters I, V, V, I are written under each measure.

A bass clef staff in 3/4 time with four measures of chords: C, F, C, C. Below the staff, the letters I, V, I, I are written under each measure.

A bass clef staff in 3/4 time with four measures of chords: C, C, F, C. Below the staff, the letters I, I, V, I are written under each measure.

A bass clef staff in 3/4 time with four measures of chords: C, F, F, C. Below the staff, the letters I, V, V, I are written under each measure.

I-IV-I LEFT HAND EXAMPLES

Musical staff 1: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major (circled), F major (circled), C major (circled), and a whole rest. A double bar line is at the end of the fourth measure.

Musical staff 2: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. A double bar line is at the end of the fourth measure.

count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Musical staff 3: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. A double bar line is at the end of the fourth measure.

count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Musical staff 4: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. A double bar line is at the end of the fourth measure.

count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Musical staff 5: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. Roman numerals I, IV, I, IV are written below the notes.

Musical staff 6: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. Roman numerals I, I, IV, I are written below the notes.

Musical staff 7: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. Roman numerals I, IV, IV, I are written below the notes.

Musical staff 8: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. Roman numerals I, IV, I, I are written below the notes.

Musical staff 9: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. Roman numerals I, I, IV, I are written below the notes.

Musical staff 10: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and F major. Roman numerals I, IV, IV, I are written below the notes.

I-IV-V-I LEFT HAND EXAMPLES

Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and G major. Each chord is marked with a fermata.

Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and G major. Fingerings are indicated below each measure: 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4.

Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and G major. Roman numerals I, IV, V, I are written below each measure.

Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. Four measures of chords: C major, F major, C major, and G major. Roman numerals I, IV, V, I are written below each measure.

Module 2 Examples

Example 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of triads.

Example 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of triads.

Example 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of triads.

Example 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of triads.

Example 5: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of triads.

Example 6: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of triads.