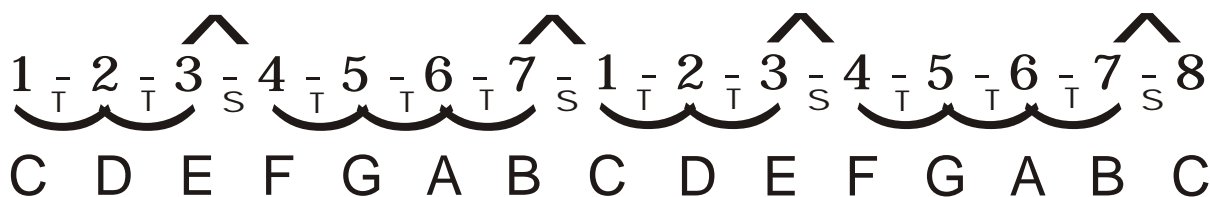


CHORD KEY RELATIONS

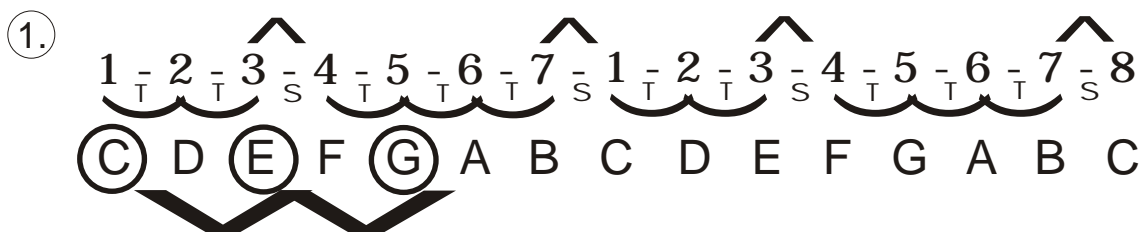
The best way to describe what chord key relations are is to compare it to a scale. Just the same way as you have a scale which is made up of notes, you can also have a scale that consists of chords. For example, the notes in a C Major scale are C, D, E, F, G, A, B, when we are soloing or constructing a melody in the key of C Major these are the only notes we will use (more advanced players will vary from these notes). When we want to construct a chord pattern in the key of C Major we will use the chords C Major, D Minor, E Minor, F Major, G Major, A Minor & B Diminished, (once again more advanced players will add different chords to these for more variations on the songs that they are writing). We will use a C Major scale for this example because of the fact that it has no sharps or flats, this will make it a little less confusing.

TWO OCTAVE C MAJOR SCALE



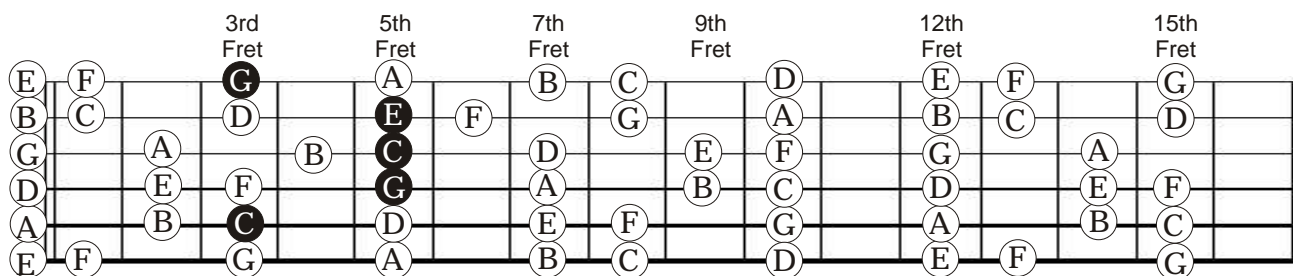
To understand how chord key relations work you have to fully understand how chords are constructed, (1st, 3rd & 5th notes of any major scale makes up that scales major chord).

C MAJOR



As you can see above the 1st, 3rd & 5th notes of the major scale are circled, this is called a chord triad. This shape of evenly spaced notes will stay constant through these examples.

Below is a diagram of a guitar fretboard, all the white notes are the notes from the C major scale. The black notes are the chord structures made up from the scale notes (1st, 3rd & 5th).



D MINOR

②

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

T T S T T T S T T S T T T S

C **D** E **F** G **A** B C D E F G A B C

E MINOR

③

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

T T S T T T S T T S T T T S

C D **E** F **G** A **B** C D E F G A B C

F MAJOR

④

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

T T S T T T S T T S T T T S

C D E **F** G **A** B **C** D E F G A B C

G MAJOR

5. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8
 T T S T T T S T T T S T T S T T T S
 C D E F **G** A **B** C **D** E F G A B C

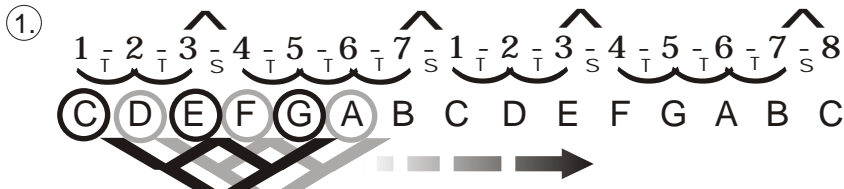
A MINOR

6. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8
 T T S T T T S T T T S T T S T T T S
 C D E F G **A** B **C** D **E** F G A B C

B DIMINISHED

7. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8
 T T S T T T S T T T S T T S T T T S
 C D E F G A **B** C **D** E **F** G A B C

C MAJOR



These are the three notes that make up a C major chord.

These are the three notes that make up a D minor chord.

The next three notes E, G & B are the three notes that make up the E minor chord. After that the next three notes are F, A, & C, these notes make up a F major chord.

In a short summary the notes that make up a C major, D minor, E minor, F major, G major, A minor and B diminished chords are all the notes from a C major scale.

This means that if all these chords are constructed from the notes out of the one scale then these chords are in some way related to one another. If you play any of these chords in and order you will notice that it will sound like a song you may know. This is because this is a very common song writing technique and is used often in popular songs.

Below there are six different keys (C, G, D, A, E & B Major). Find some of your favorite songs and have a look at the chords, make sure you have the right key (usually the key of the song will be whatever the first chord is). You will find that most or all of the chords in that song will be in the in the key/s written below.

KEY OF C MAJOR	KEY OF G MAJOR	KEY OF D MAJOR
I C Major	I G Major	I D Major
II D Minor	II A Minor	II E Minor
III E Minor	III B Minor	III F# Minor
IV F Major	IV C Major	IV G Major
V G Major	V D Major	V A Major
VI A Minor	VI E Minor	VI B Minor
VII B Diminished	VII F# Diminished	VII C# Diminished
KEY OF A MAJOR	KEY OF E MAJOR	KEY OF B MAJOR
I A Major	I E Major	I B Major
II B Minor	II F# Minor	II C# Minor
III C# Minor	III G# Minor	III D# Minor
IV D Major	IV A Major	IV E Major
V E Major	V B Major	V F# Major
VI F# Minor	VI C# Minor	VI G# Minor
VII G# Diminished	VII D# Diminished	VII A# Diminished