

Four Note Chords of the C Major Scale

Hello friends,

welcome back to Swiftlessons for another mini guitar tutorial. In today's session we are back to basics as we learn to convert our C Major Scale to chordal form using four note harmonies. Learning this skill will reveal which chords work together in a given major key, allow you to learn songs more quickly, and also help you to compose your own original music. Let's get started!

Music Theory Explanation:

The major scale is created by performing a specific pattern of whole steps and half steps; W,W,H,W,W,W,H. The result is a series of notes that can be used to create melodies, harmonies and also chord progressions. Each of the seven notes in a major scale can become root notes for chords - the type of chord you play for a given scale degree is determined by which notes are available in the key or scale you are working in.

In the tablatures below, we see our major scale performed on a single string, followed by those same notes harmonized using a specific order of Major 7, Minor 7, Dominant 7 and half-diminished chord shapes:

C Major Scale - Single String

C Major Scale with Four Note Harmonies

Cmaj7 Dm7 Em7 Fmaj7 G7 Am7 B^ø Cmaj7