



SUCCESS WORKBOOK

A LESSON COMPANION
TO HELP YOU REACH
YOUR FULL POTENTIAL

An Easy Way to Create Triads

Step 1 - Create a 5-finger Major Scale

Triads are three-note chords that are formed by playing notes from the five-finger scale, so let's start by learning our five-finger major scale. To create a 5-finger major scale you need to start on the root of the chord that you are trying to create. If you want to create a G triad, start on G. To create a B^b triad, you'd start on B^b. The pattern for a 5-finger major scale is: START ON the ROOT of the chord you are trying to create, then go up WHOLE Step, another WHOLE Step, a HALF Step and a WHOLE Step. The B^b major 5-finger scale would be B^b, C, D, E^b, and F.

Step 2 - Create a Major Triad

Once you have the notes of the five-finger scale, you create a major triad by playing the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes from the 5-finger scale at the same time. You should play these notes with your 1st, 3rd and 5th fingers. For example, to create an A major triad, you would play the A, C[#] and E together at the same time. Start by finding the major triad before trying to find any other chord, because the chart below alters the notes of the major triad.

Step 3 - Creating Different Triads

To create a different kind (quality) of triad, alter the 3rd or 5th of the major triad. Below is a chart to show you how to alter the major triad for the common triads that you are likely to encounter.

Using this chart is simple. Once you have figured out the major triad (step 2), simply alter the 3rd or 5th notes accordingly. For example, using our A major triad as an example (A-C[#]-E), if we want to make an A diminished triad, we would flat the 3rd and 5th notes. The A diminished triad is A, C and E^b.

Remember when using this chart, start by finding the notes of the major triad first, then alter the 3rd or 5th.

Once you feel comfortable finding the triad you are looking for, you'll no longer need to start with the major triad.

Chord Type	Notes from 5-finger scale
Major	1, 3, 5
Minor	1, ^b 3, 5
Diminished	1, ^b 3, ^b 5
Augmented	1, 3, [#] 5

The G major five-finger scale and major triad.



To the left are some examples of different 5-finger major scales and triads. Start by learning these chords in the right hand, then try playing them in the left hand.

When playing a lead sheet, you'd play chords in the left hand and melody in the right.

The E^b major five-finger scale and major triad.



Introduction

This Success Workbook helps you organize your practice and get the most out of your PianoWithWillie experience.

We begin structuring our lessons by categorizing them into one of two paths: **foundational** and **fun'dational**. In doing so, the PianoWithWillie method provides structure to your piano practice while giving you the freedom to have fun.

The foundational path breaks down further into the elements: rhythm, technique and reading. Fun'dational breaks down into elements: song, style and concept.

As an added benefit, this structure allows you the flexibility of introducing material into your practice routine that comes from outside of the PianoWithWillie program.

For instance, if there is a piece of sheet music you want to learn that is not found at PianoWithWillie, this material would fit into your reading and song sections of your practice. This allows you to mix PianoWithWillie material with other material easily.

Using the enclosed practice sheets write down the foundational and fun'dational elements that you intend to practice on the left-hand page. On the right-hand page, write down the days and length of time that you practiced each of these elements. There is also space for you to write goals along with a line of staff paper for you to record your musical ideas.

If you are new to PianoWithWillie, begin by practicing your rhythm element for week one. In week two, add on a technique element. Week three, add on a reading element. Every time you add a new element, continue practicing the previous element. For example, in week three, you would add on reading while also practicing technique and rhythm.

Once you have a foundational practice routine you can follow, add on some fun'dational material like a song or style. As you progress in your practice, try practicing a song and concept lesson.

Remember to go slow and be patient with yourself. Eventually, with practice, you'll be able to practice each of the 6 elements from the PianoWithWillie method daily to unlock the expressive pianist that lies within you!



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RHYTHM:

TECHNIQUE:

READING:

My **Fun'dational** practice [*devote 15-30 minutes*]

SONG:

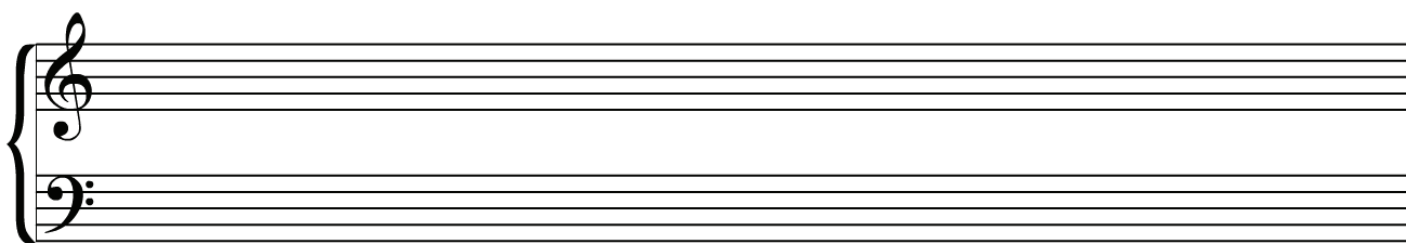
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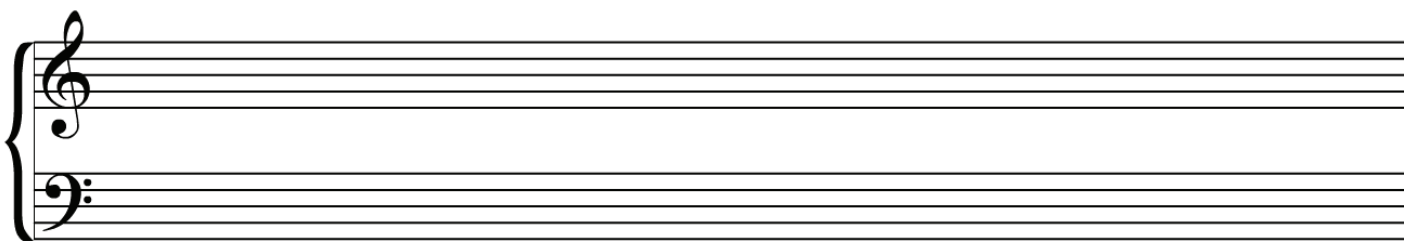
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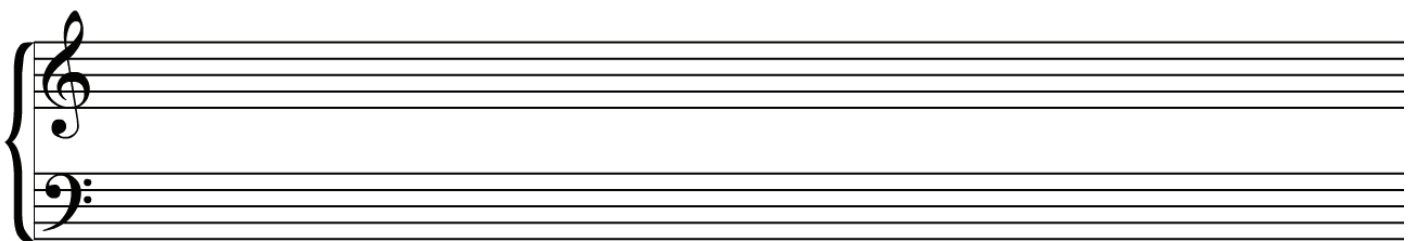
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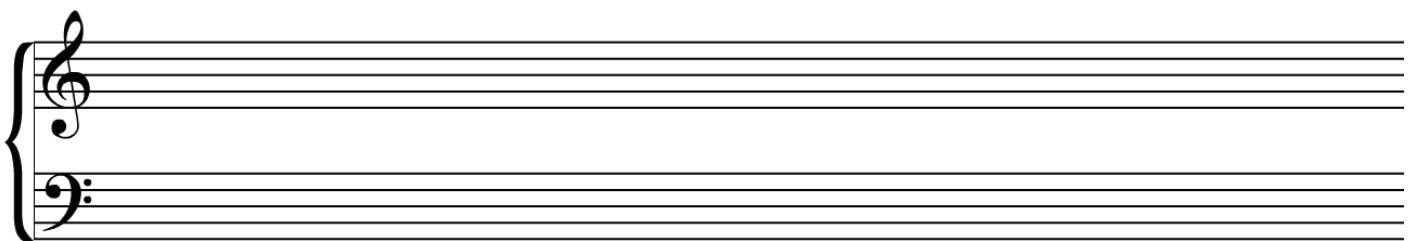
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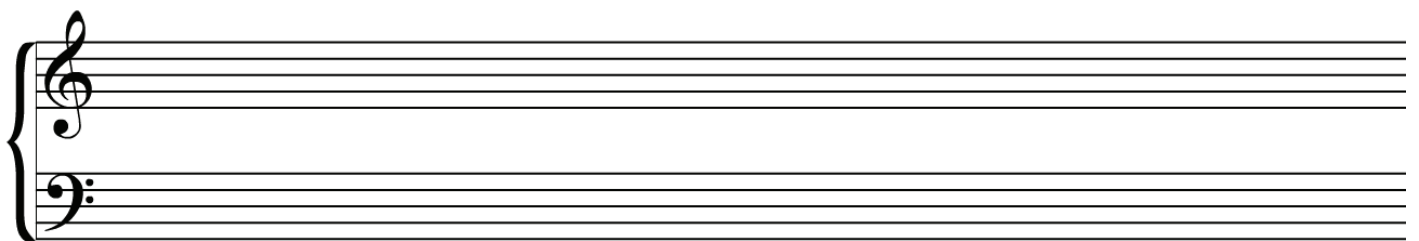
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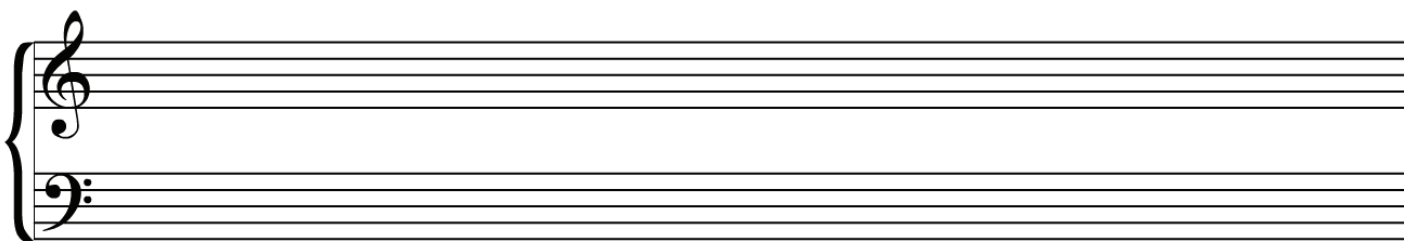
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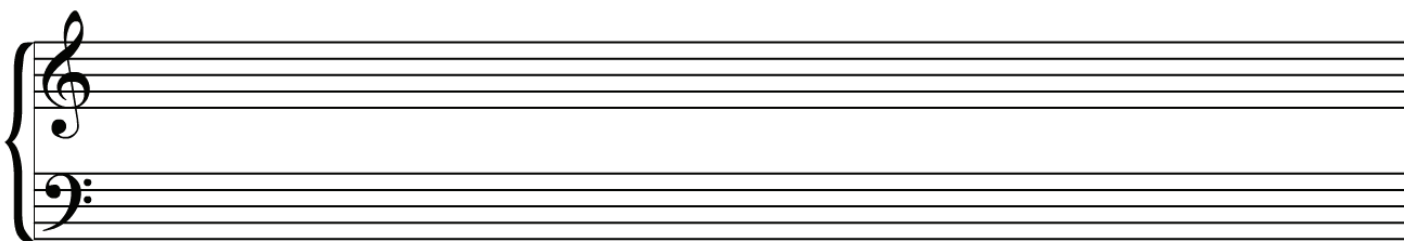
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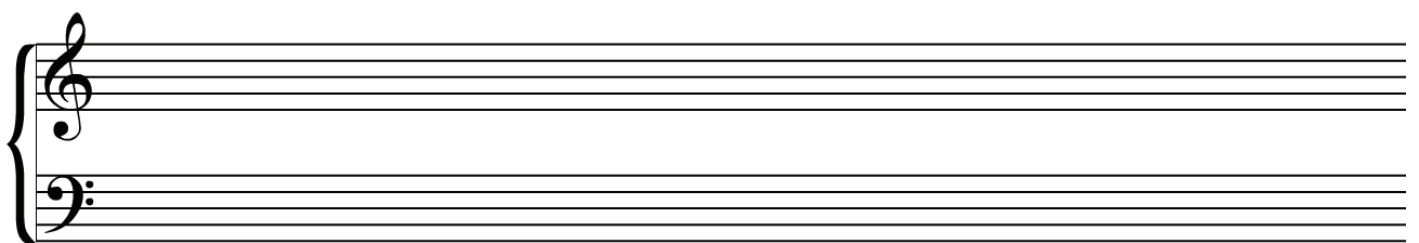
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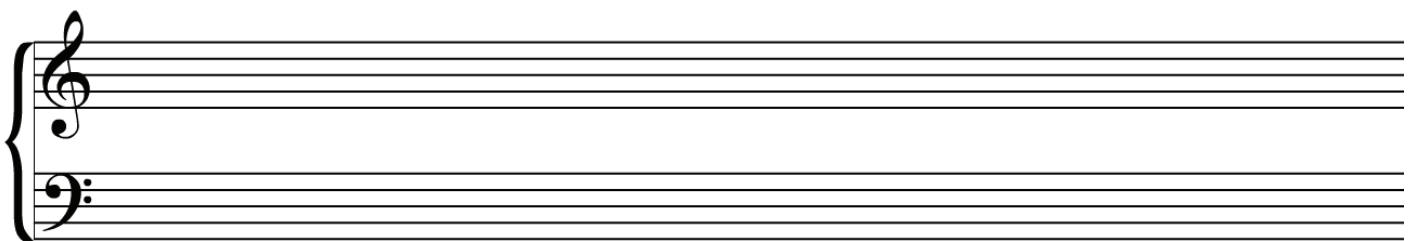
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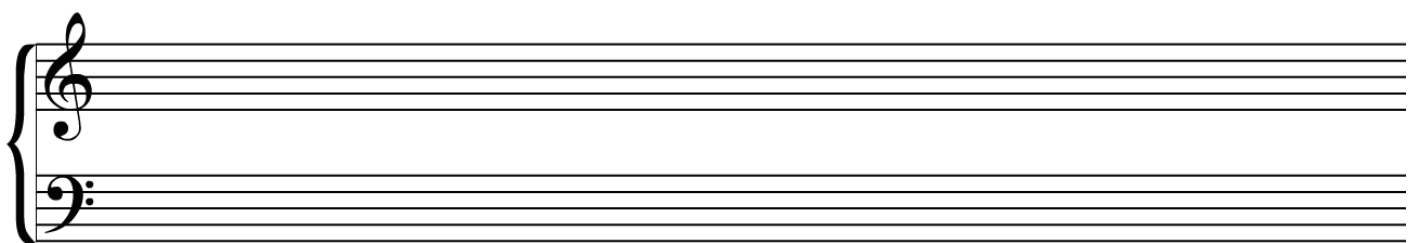
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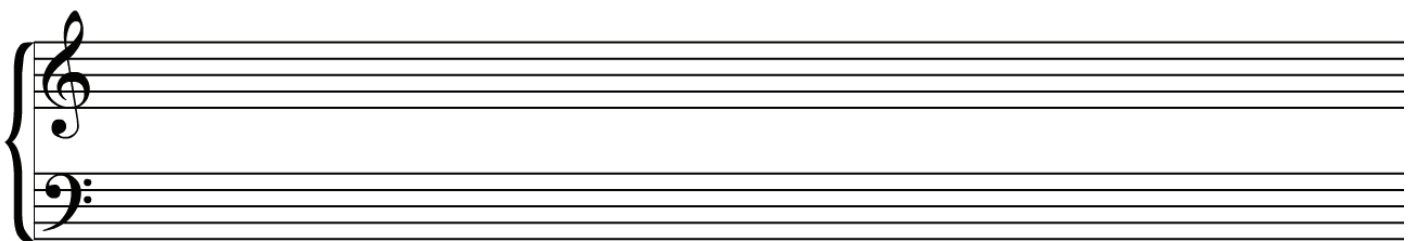
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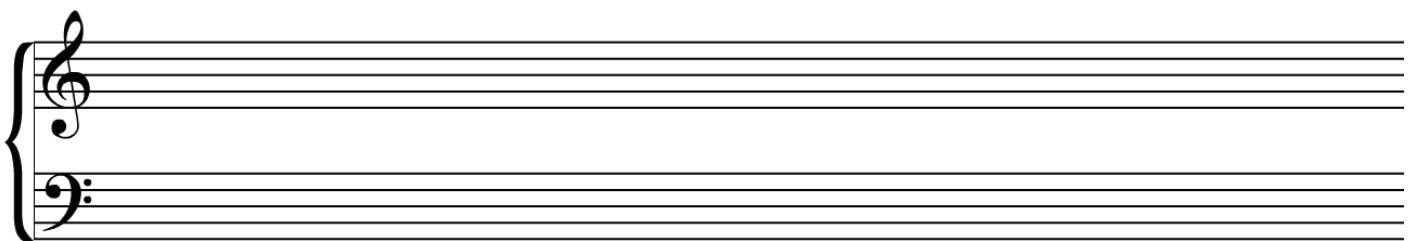
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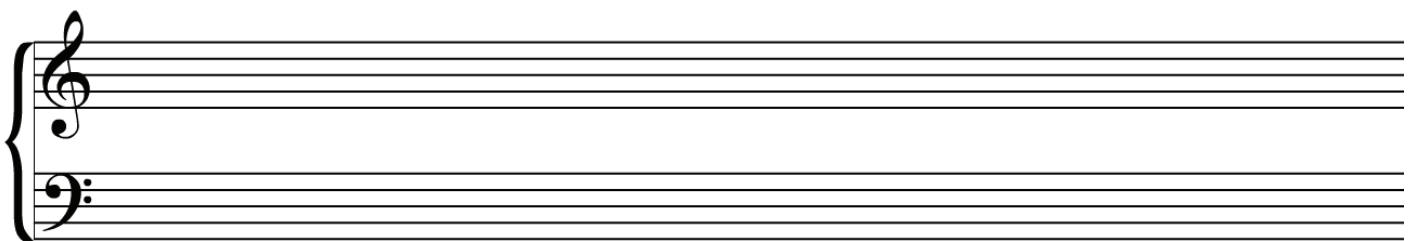
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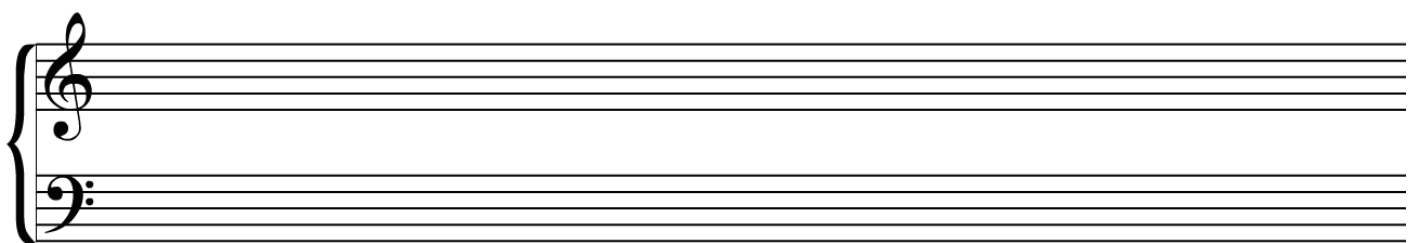
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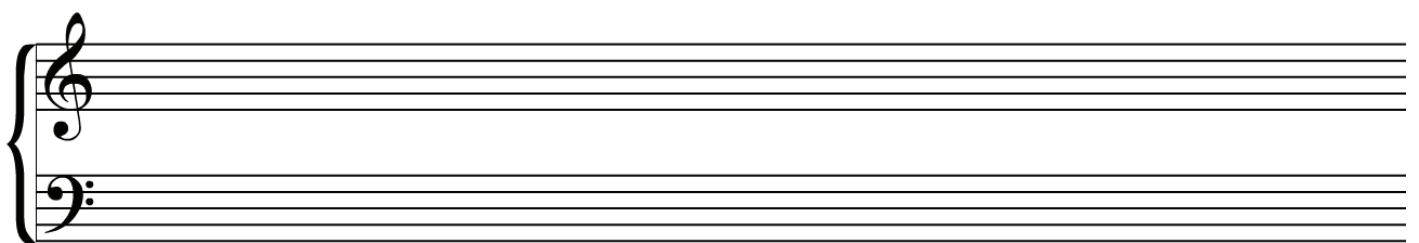
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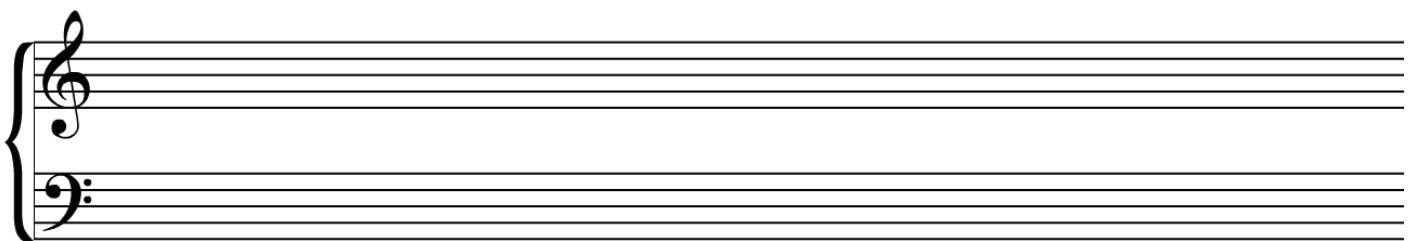
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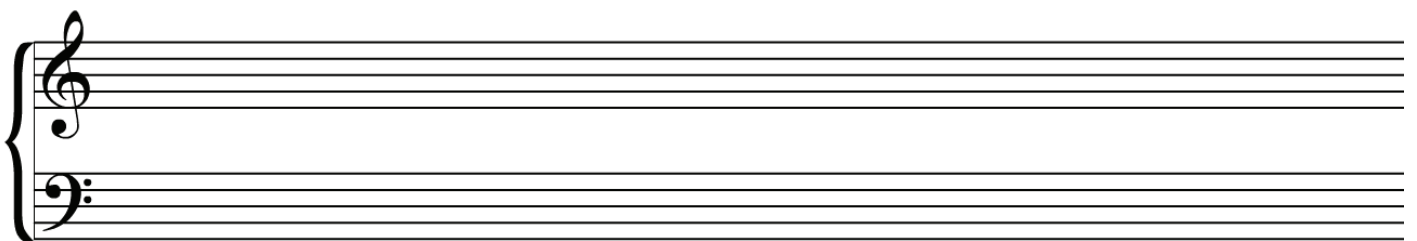
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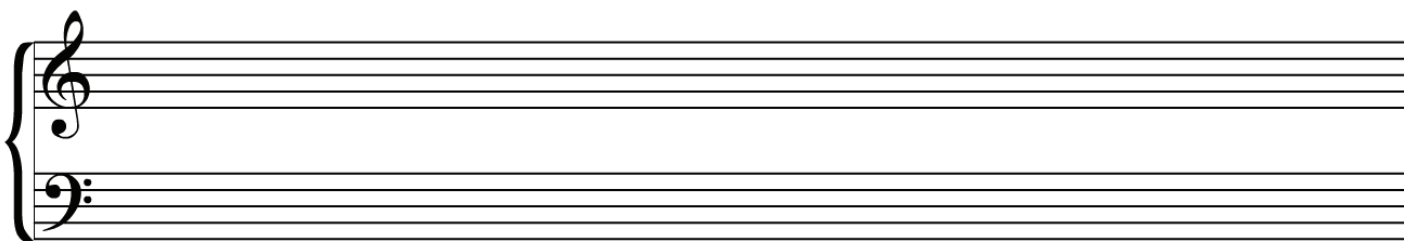
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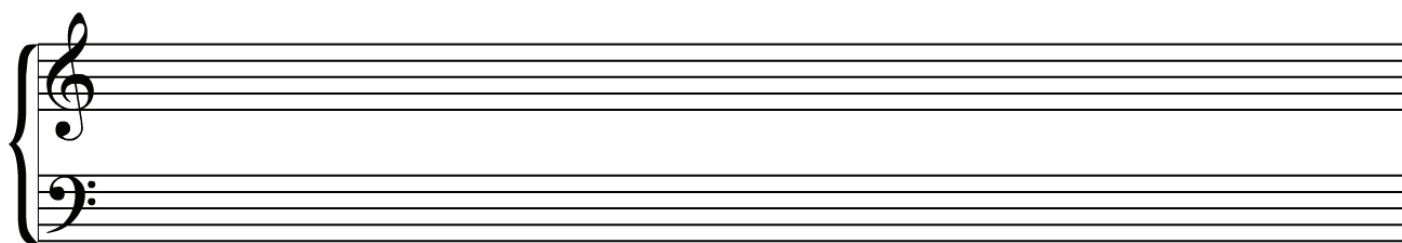
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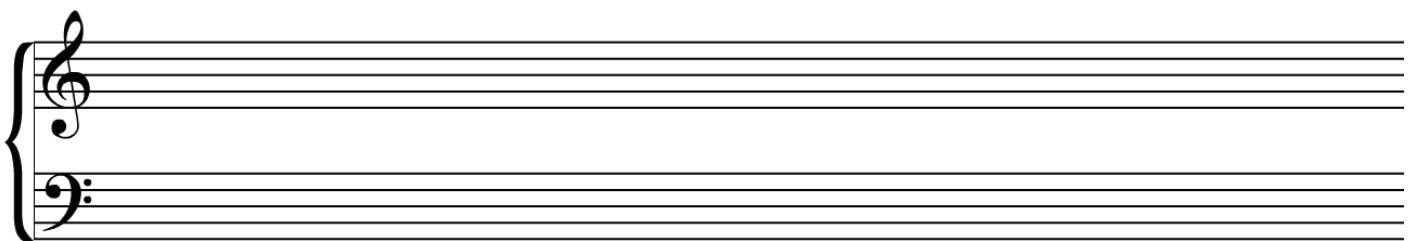
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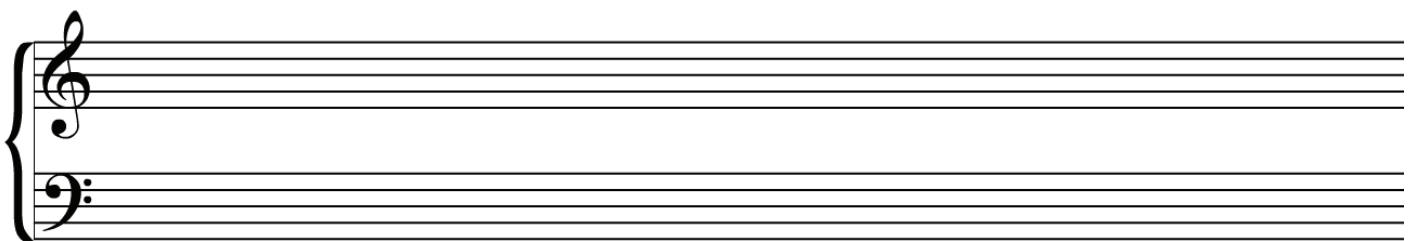
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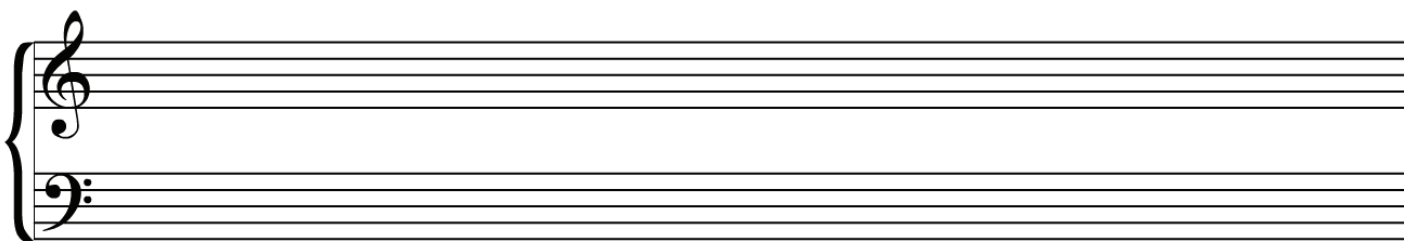
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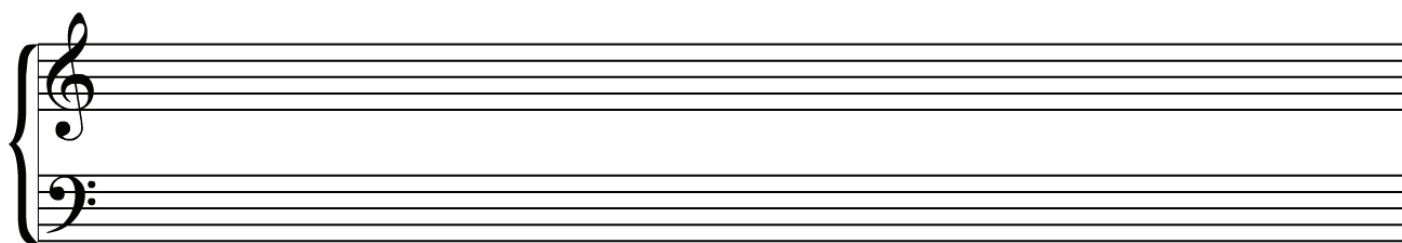
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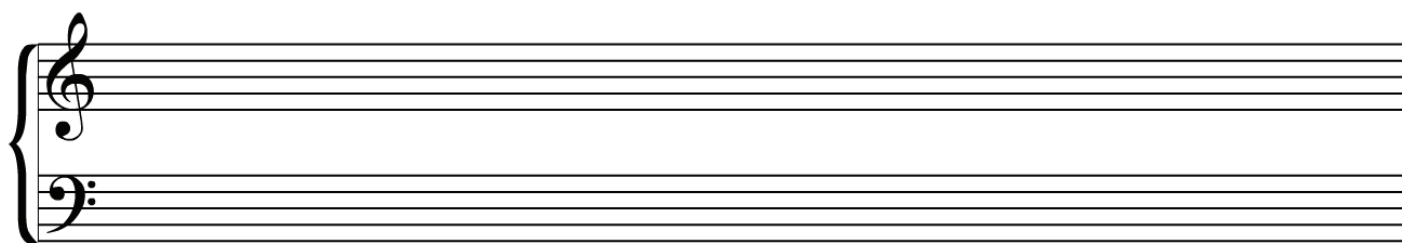
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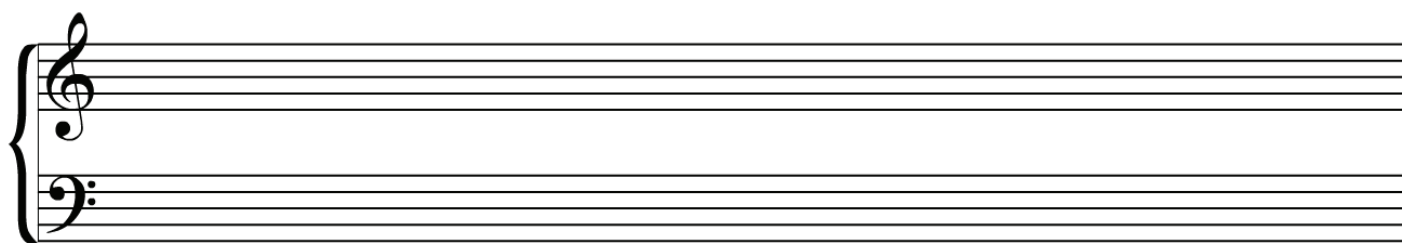
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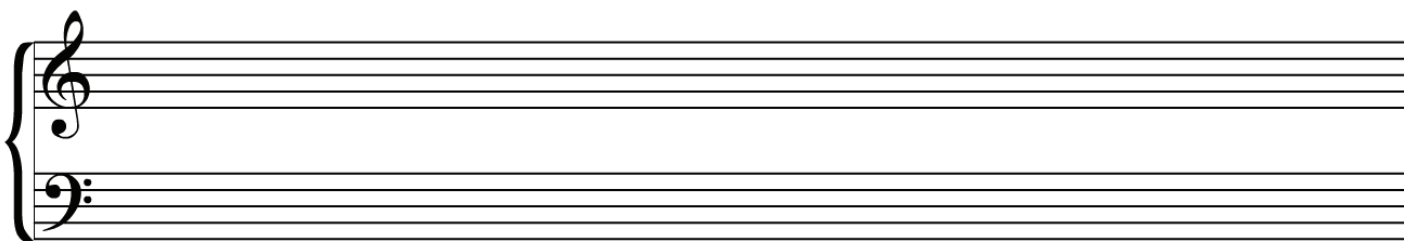
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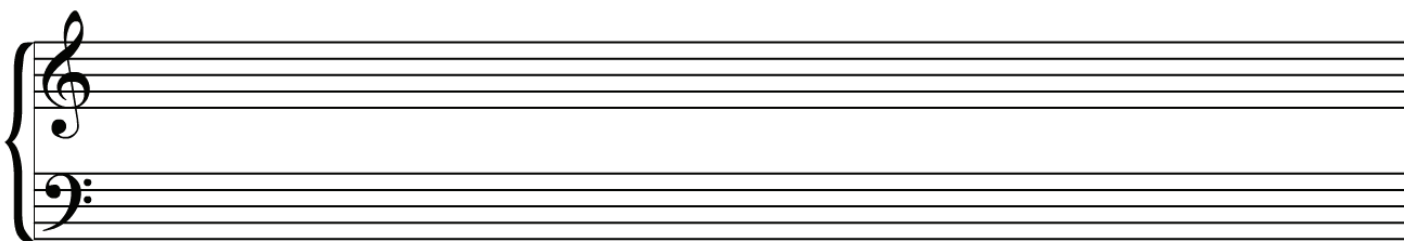
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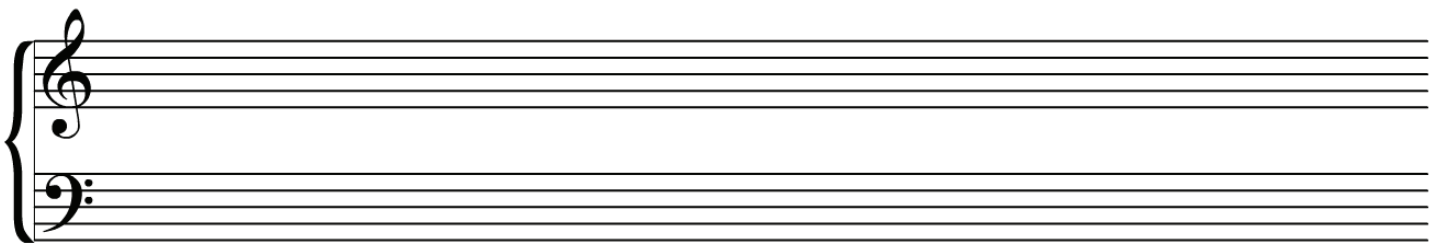
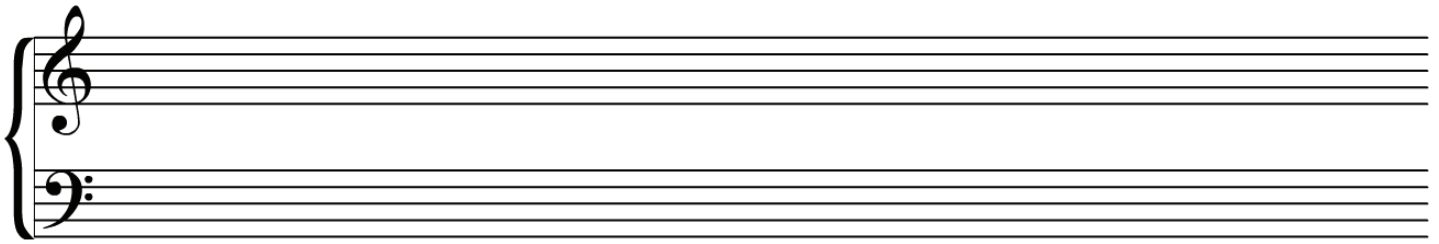
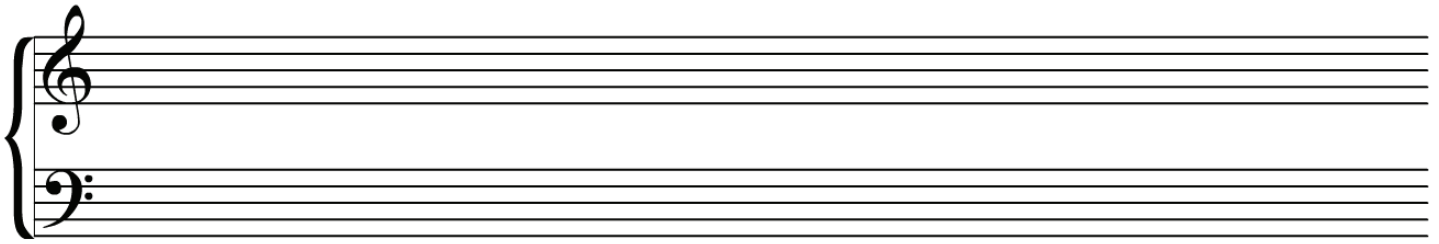
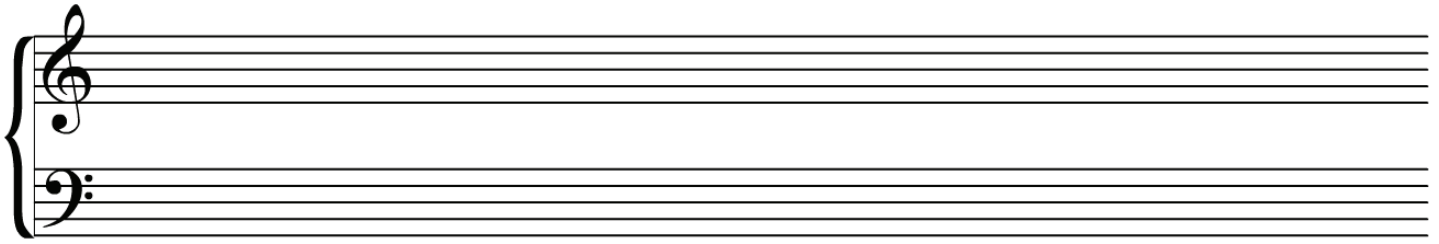
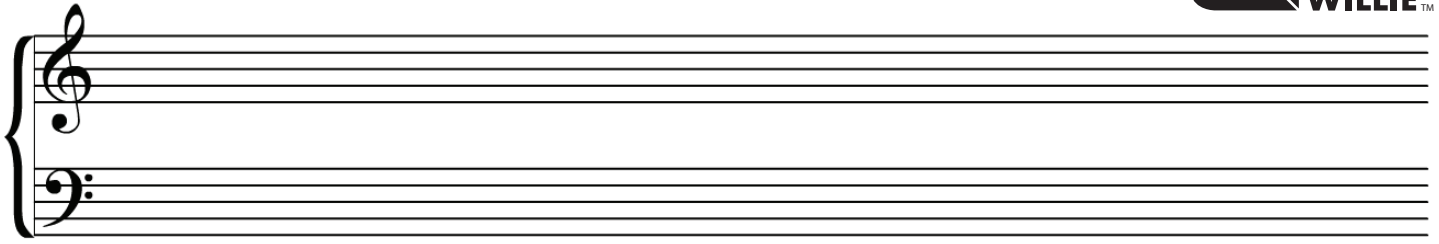
CONCEPT:

Record your practice times below:

Practice Times							

Notes / Goals





An Easy Way to Create Seventh Chords

Step 1 - Identify The Chord Parts

When identifying the chord, remember that every chord has two parts: the **root** and **chord symbol**. The root is the letter and sharp or flat that is right next to the root. For example the root of B^bMaj7 is B^b. The root of B-7^b5 is B. Everything else is the chord symbol. So in our previous examples, B^bMaj7, the root is B^b and the symbol is Maj7.

Step 2 - Identify The Chord Symbol

There are several ways of writing the same chord. You need to learn several different chord symbols, because musicians and publishers often use different chord symbol notation. Here are some of the most common chord symbols that are used, with my preferred symbol listed first.

Chord Type	Common Chord Symbol	Written Example	The seventh is down a ___ step
Major 7th	△7, Maj7, MA7, MAJ7, M7	C△7 or EMaj7 or GMA7	Half
Minor 7th	-7, min7, mi7, m7	B ^b -7 or Fmin7 or Am7	Whole
Dominant 7th	7	B7 or A ^b 7 or D ^b 7	Whole
Diminished 7th	°7, dim7	B°7 or Cdim7	Whole and Half (min 3rd)

Chord Type	From The Major Scale
Major 7th	1, 3, 5, 7
Minor 7th	1, ^b 3, 5, ^b 7
Dominant 7th	1, 3, 5, ^b 7
Diminished 7th	1, ^b 3, ^b 5, ^b ^b 7
Minor 7th ^b 5	1, ^b 3, ^b 5, ^b 7
Augment 7th	1, 3, #5, ^b 7

Step 3 - Create The Seventh Chord* (2 methods)

Method One: Using the notes from the Major scale:

- 1) number each note of the Major scale 1 through 8
- 2) use the chart at left to pick out the right notes from the scale.

For example, the F major scale is F, G, A, B^b, C, D, E, F. If you want to create a F7 chord (F Dominant 7th), you need to pick out 1, 3, 5, ^b7 from the scale. So, you would play the notes F, A, C and E^b together at the same time.

Chord Type	The Triad	The seventh is down a ___ step
Major 7th	Major	Half Step
Minor 7th	Minor	Whole Step
Dominant 7th	Major	Whole Step
Diminished 7th	Diminished	Whole and Half Step
Minor 7th ^b 5	Diminished	Whole Step
Augment 7th	Augmented	Whole Step

Method Two: Start with a triad, then add the seventh. For example, to create an A-7 (A minor 7th) chord:

- start with an A minor triad.
- find the root an octave up
- go ↓W step from the “root up top”
- chord is: A, C, E and G.

*Seventh chords are sometimes also called block chords.

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-LLOYD

What separates Willie's technique from the others is that he explains WHY he does what he does, rather than just having us memorize the sheet music...

fantastic stuff!

-BRIAN

Willie, I am having a great time and I can see the improvement big time. You are a wonderful teacher, I am more committed than ever. I have much to learn, much to learn, but it will be right here.

Thanks!

-JEFF

I appreciate the way you do not speak down to your students, and the way you clearly enjoy teaching. It's your manner that makes the process as enjoyable as the goal, so thanks.

- JAMES

