Alberti Bass

the spinning left hand — a broken chord that accompanies all by itself

Block chords are sturdy; Alberti bass makes them dance. Instead of playing C–E–G together, the left hand ripples it in a loop — **bottom, top, middle, top** — in steady eighth notes. The colors show the order: root cyan, third purple, fifth magenta. Practice the loop until it spins on autopilot; then your right hand is free to sing.

THE PATTERN — LOW · TOP · MIDDLE · TOP



Take the blocked chord apart in a special order: **bottom – top – middle – top**, round and round. Fingers 5 – 1 – 3 – 1.

Why “Alberti”?

Named after **Domenico Alberti** (1710–1746), who loved this ripple so much he put it everywhere. **Mozart** made it immortal — the opening of his famous C major sonata (K. 545, Handout 379) is exactly this: a singing melody floating over an Alberti left hand. It works because the chord keeps **gently spinning** instead of sitting still.

WITH A MELODY ON TOP



The right hand sings in long notes while the left hand spins — C chord, G7 (B–G–D–G; the melody’s F adds the 7th), then home.

Try it Practice the left hand alone with your eyes closed — the pattern must live in the muscles, not the eyes. Then move it: **G7 spins as B–G–F–G** (Handout 42’s B–F–G shape) and F as **C–A–F–A**… any close chord shape can spin. When both hands are ready, play the example and listen: quiet, even left hand, singing right hand — that balance is the whole art. Practice: Exercise 87.

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