The C Major Arpeggio

the C chord, played like a harp — one note at a time, in root position and both inversions
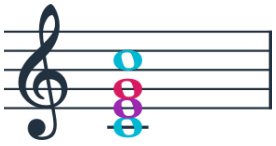
LISTEN
Scan to hear every example

Take the C chord and break it open. Instead of sounding C · E · G together, let the notes ripple one at a time — **root, third, fifth**, then the root again an octave up, and back down. Chord-tone colors throughout:

root third fifth

THE CHORD — BLOCKED, THEN ON THE KEYS

C, blocked
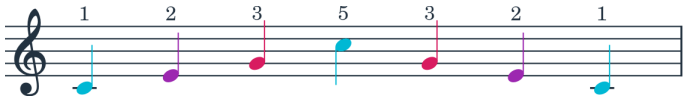


all at once — a block

R.H. — fingers above the keys



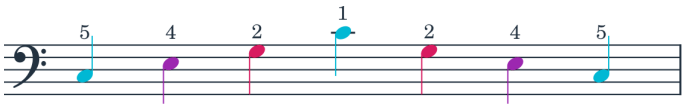
ONE HAND AT A TIME

RIGHT HAND — 1 · 2 · 3 · 5



Thumb on **C**, then 2-3, and let **finger 5 reach the top**. Coming down, the same fingers in reverse. Keep the wrist soft and let it follow the fingers **like a rainbow** — one smooth arch up and back.

LEFT HAND — 5 · 4 · 2 · 1
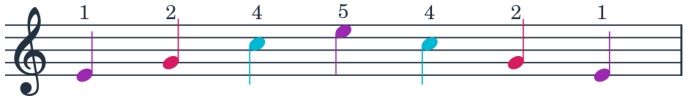


Pinky on the low **C**, then 4-2, and the **thumb takes the top**. The numbers mirror the right hand's. Practice hands separately until each arch feels like one gesture, not four notes.

INVERSIONS — START ON THE THIRD, THEN ON THE FIFTH

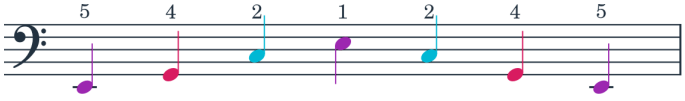
Same three notes, new starting point. Every note keeps its color, so the **cyan root** shows where it moved. Inversion fingering follows the shape: the thumb stays on white keys and finger 5 only turns around at the top or bottom.

1st inversion — starts on the third: **E · G · C · E** (thumbs on **E**)

RIGHT HAND — 1 · 2 · 4 · 5
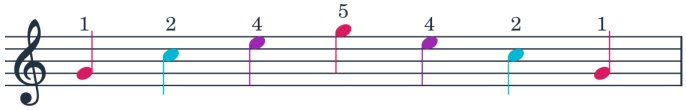


LEFT HAND — 5 · 4 · 2 · 1
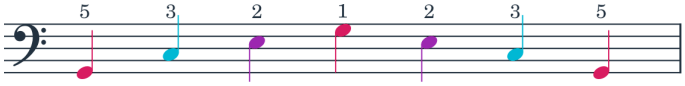


2nd inversion — starts on the fifth: **G · C · E · G** (thumbs on **G**)

RIGHT HAND — 1 · 2 · 4 · 5



LEFT HAND — 5 · 3 · 2 · 1



Try it Play it **legato** like water, then **staccato** like raindrops. Slide the third **down** a half step and hear it turn minor. Then climb the ladder: root position, 1st inversion, 2nd inversion — each starts one chord tone higher. **Find the cyan root** in every shape.

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