Realize a lead sheet

A lead sheet gives you the melody and the chord symbols — the left hand is your job. Write the left-hand notes on the **empty bass staff**, right under each symbol. A symbol that lasts the whole bar gets a **whole note**; two symbols in one bar get a **half note** each. (Handout 229.)
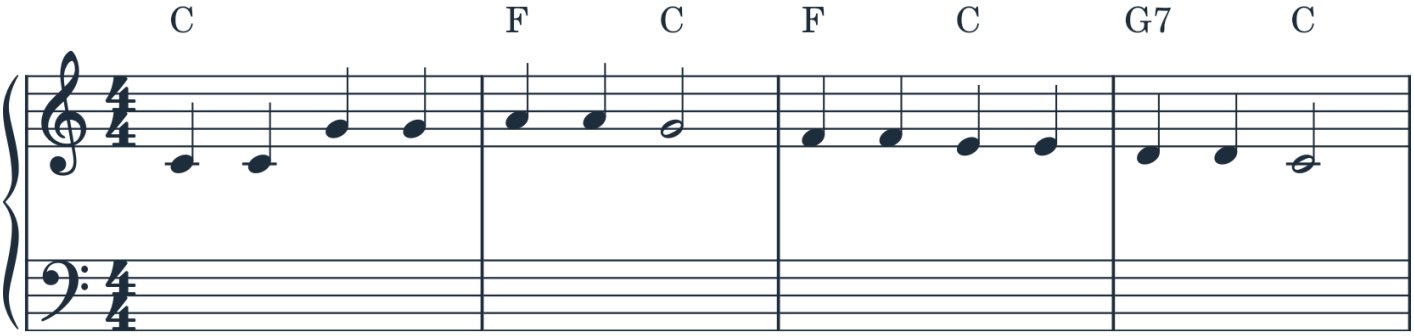
The chords
C = C-E-G **F** = F-A-C **G7** = G-B-D-F

Step 1 · Root
just the letter of the symbol
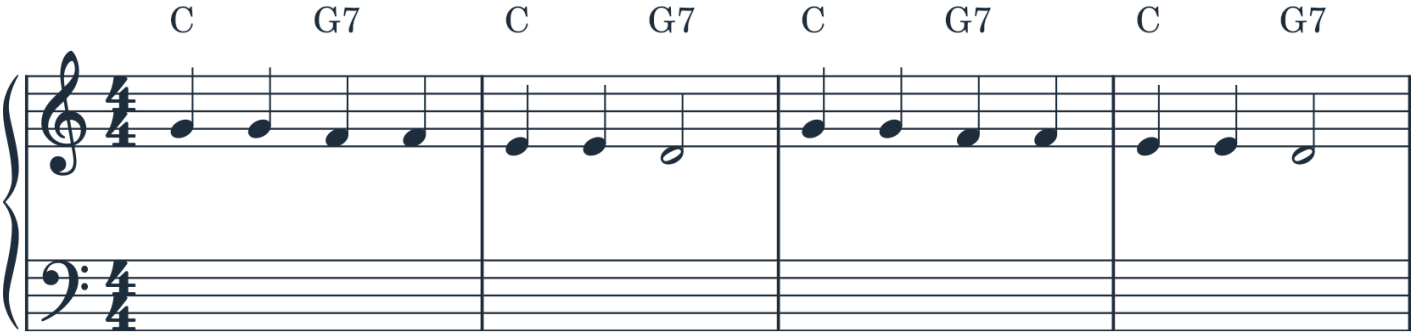
Step 2 · Shell
root + 5th (root + 7th on a **7** chord)

Step 3 · Close chord
all the chord tones, packed close
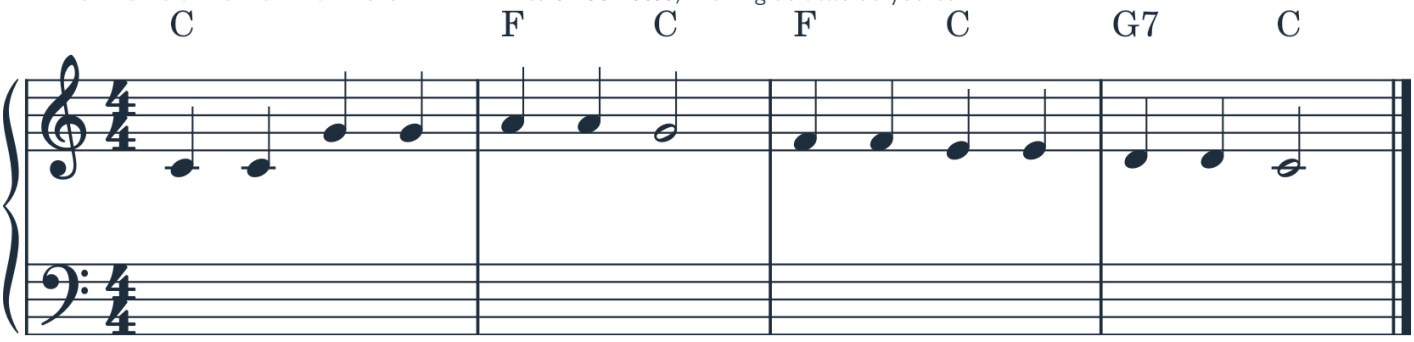
PART 1 · ROOTS Bars 1–4 — write **one note**: the root
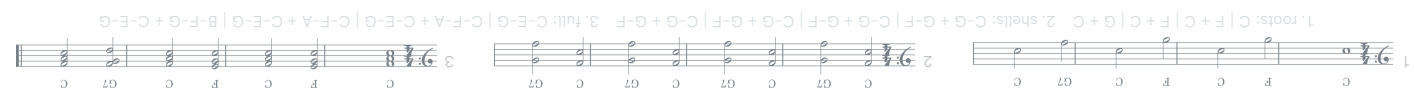


PART 2 · SHELLS Bars 5–8 — write **two notes** stacked: root + 5th, or root + 7th on G7



PART 3 · CLOSE CHORDS Bars 9–12 — write **three notes**, moving as little as you can



Hint In part 3, find the notes two chords **share** and keep them; move the others by a step. C to F keeps the C; G7 to C keeps the G. You do not need the 5th of G7 — its root, 3rd and 7th say "G7" (Handout 42). Then play each part: left hand as written, right hand the tune. Next: realize a figured bass, Exercise 72, or turn the chords into grooves, Exercise 87.



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