

# Scales, Triads and Lead Sheet Basics

## Using triads of I - IV - V

Play and say out loud each step of the major scale. Example: "I, C; II, D; III, E;" etc.

*Play measure 1 below.*

There are 7 triads that occur automatically in the major scale. The chords built on steps I, IV and V are the most important. They are called "Tonic, Sub-dominant and Dominant" on I, IV and V respectively. The chords in parentheses (II, III, VI and VII) will not be studied until later in this series.

*Play and say out loud each triad in the key of C major in measure 2.*

*Play and say the chords of I, IV and V in measure 3.*

The three notes in a triad are named the "Root, 3rd and 5th. When the Root is the bottom note, a chord is in "Root position." When the 3rd is the bottom note it is in first inversion. (It has been "turned over" once.) When the 5th is the bottom note it is in second inversion.

*Play measures 4 through 6 saying the name of the chord and the position or inversion.*

We can harmonize a scale using only the chords of I, IV and V (C, F and G in the key of C major). **Refer to the measures below.** The melody note C in the right hand is in either a C or an F chord. The melody note D is only in a G chord. The melody note E is only in a C chord. The melody note F is only in an F chord. The melody note G is in both a G chord and a C chord. The melody note A is only in an F chord. The melody note B is only in a G chord. The melody note C is in both an F chord and a C chord. Notice that the large note in the triad in the left hand corresponds to the melody note in the right hand.

*Play measures 7 through 14.*