

# FINGERING THE CHORDS

## UPRIGHT BASS

### MAJOR CHORDS

THE TYPES OF CHORD DERIVED FROM EACH DEGREE OF THIS SCALE DEFINE THE FINGERING AND ITS CONNECTION.  
 FOR THIS EXAMPLE WE HAVE CHOSEN THE F MAJOR SCALE BECAUSE ITS EXTENSION.  
 THIS SCALE RANGES FROM THE HALF TO FIFTH POSITION.

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Diagram showing the F major scale chords on a bass staff:

- F (I)
- Gm (ii)
- Am (iii)
- Bb (IV)
- C (V)
- Dm (vi)
- E° (vii°)

AS RESULT THERE ARE OBTAINED:  
 THREE MAJOR CHORDS (F, B FLAT, AND C)  
 THREE MINOR CHORDS (GMINOR, AMINOR, DMINOR)  
 ONE FLAT FIVE CHORD (E DIMINISHED)

THE FIRST STEP IS TO MOVE THROUGH THE MAJOR CHORDS OF THE SCALE WITH THE SECOND AND FOUR FINGER.  
 (IN THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE THERE IS AN EXCEPTION WITH THE F AND G AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCALE FOR THE STARTING POSITION).

First part of the F major scale with fingerings:

1 1 4 1 2 4 1 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

E A D G

Second part of the F major scale with fingerings:

4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 4 1

G D A E

Fmaj7

1 1 0 4 1 2 1 4 3 4 3 4 1 2 1 4 0 1

E A D G D A E

FINGERING THE CHORDS CONT...

VARIATION 1

CONNECTING THROUGH THE THIRD STRING

1

1 4 0 1 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

E A D G

5

4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 1 1 0 4 1

G D A E

Fmaj7

1

1 0 4 1 2 1 4 3 4 3 4 1 2 1 4 0 1

E A D G D A E

VARIATION 2

CONNECTING THROUGH THE SECOND STRING

1

1 4 0 1 4 0 2 1 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

E A D G

5

4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 4 1

G D A E

Fmaj7

1

1 0 4 1 2 1 4 3 4 3 4 1 2 1 4 0 1

E A D G D A E

# FINGERING THE CHORDS CONT...

## VARIATION 3

### CONNECTING THROUGH THE FIRST STRING

1

1 4 0 1 4 0 2 4      OPTIONAL: 1 2 4 1 3 4

E    A    D    G

5

4 3 1 4 1 2 0 4 2 0 4 1 0 4 1

G    D    A    E

### Fmaj7

9

1 0 2 1 2 1 4 3 4 3 4 1 2 1 2 0 1

E    A    D    G    D    A    E

THIS TECHNIQUE IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO THE ELECTRIC BASS BECAUSE IT USES THE SAME PRINCIPLE OF FOUR SEPARATE FINGERS.

THE NEXT EXAMPLE IS A MELODIC CONNECTION THROUGH THE TONIC, SUBDOMINANT AND DOMINANT CHORDS IN THE KEY OF F.

1

Fmaj7      Bbmaj7

1 0 4 1 2 1 4 3 4 1 2 1 2 0 1 0

E    A    D    G    D    A    A

5

C7      Fmaj7

4 1 4 1 4 2 4 3 4 3 4 1 2 1 4 0 1

E    A    D    G    A    E