



# Lance Russell Theory

Music Training for Every Level

## Playing Arpeggiations: Level One

### Introduction

The ability to recognize and move through chords easily is an important skill for any pianist. In the following exercise, you can practice moving through a common pattern of chords.

Every half of a measure, the music touches every note of a particular chord. This technique is called playing an “arpeggio” of a chord, or “arpeggiating” a chord.

### Reading the Chord Symbols

Chord Symbol	Notes	Roman Numeral
C	C, E, G	I
Dm	D, F, A	ii
Em	E, G, B	iii
F	F, A, C	IV
G	G, B, D	V
Am	A, C, E	vi
B°	B, D, F	vii
C	C, E, G	I

Use the picture above as a guide for reading the chord symbols you will find on the exercise.

The first chord in the exercise that gets “arpeggiated” is a C-major chord (C–E–G). That is why there is a C above the first part of the measure. Since C–

major is the first chord of a C-major scale, it can also be labeled as a “one” chord, using the Roman numeral “I.”

The second part of the first measure arpeggiates an F-major chord (F–A–C), starting with the note C. That is why there is an F/C above that part of the measure. Since F is the fourth chord of a C-major scale, it can be labeled as a “four” chord, using the Roman numeral “IV.”

### Instructions

Make sure you use the correct fingering as you move through the pattern. The fingering pattern is shown for you in the first measure.

Start with one hand, and then work on the other. Once you feel comfortable playing the pattern on either hand, try combining them.

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The treble clef staff contains an arpeggiated C major scale starting on C4. Above the staff, the chords C, F/C, D, G/D, E, A/E, F, and B°/F are indicated. Roman numerals I, IV, ii, V, iii, vi, IV, and vii are placed below the treble staff. The bass clef staff contains an arpeggiated C major scale starting on C3. Roman numerals 5, 3, 1, 3, 5, 2, 1, 3 are placed above the bass staff. Fingering numbers 1, 3, 5, 3, 1, 3, 5, 3 are written above the treble staff notes.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The treble clef staff contains an arpeggiated C major scale starting on C4. Above the staff, the chords G, C/G, A, D/A, B°, E/B, and C are indicated. Roman numerals V, I, vi, ii, vii, iii, and I are placed below the treble staff. The bass clef staff contains an arpeggiated C major scale starting on C3. Roman numerals 5, 3, 1, 3, 5, 2, 1, 3 are placed above the bass staff. A measure number '5' is written at the beginning of the system.