



Bite size Composition

THEME - Finding a melody in the chords & Putting Chords to your melody

Exercise 1 - Finding a melody in the chords.

Choose a key - Major, minor (natural or harmonic) or other mode.

Write out the scale of that key.

Stack root position triads on each degree of the scale to create a chord chart.

Choose a chord progression - e.g - 1 - 4 - 5 - 1

Left hand plays this chords in what ever way you are comfortable, start simple with single block chords on the first beat of each bar.

With the right hand improvise a melody by using any or all of the notes from the chord underneath. This will give you a skeleton shape of the strongest notes with each chord.

The Start to build it up by adding **passing notes** notes not from the chord which are like stepping stone notes.

To make a smooth melody try and move as stepwise as possible. Remember coming back to 1 in the melody too will make it feel resolved at the end.

Exercise 2 - Finding chords to go with your melody.

Decide where you could like the chords to go in your noodle. Follow where you feel the changes should be.

Use your chord chart to find the chords that contain the same note/notes as the melody note you wish to harmonise.

If you have a bar full of notes you want to work out which are your strong notes and which are passing notes.

Remember it's entirely up to you where you put the chords, it could be one chord to go with a few bars, or the first beat of every bar, or even every single beat if you want to... so follow your ears.

Chord chart for C Major

G	A	B	C	D	E	F
E	F	G	A	B	C	D
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII

