

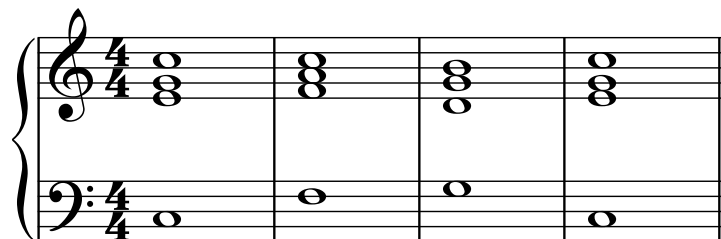
There Are Too Many Numbers in Music Theory: A Guide

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Roman numerals:

I, ii, V, vii^o, etc.

- These are used for chords: triads and seventh chords.
- The number refers to the scale-degree of the **root** of the chord.

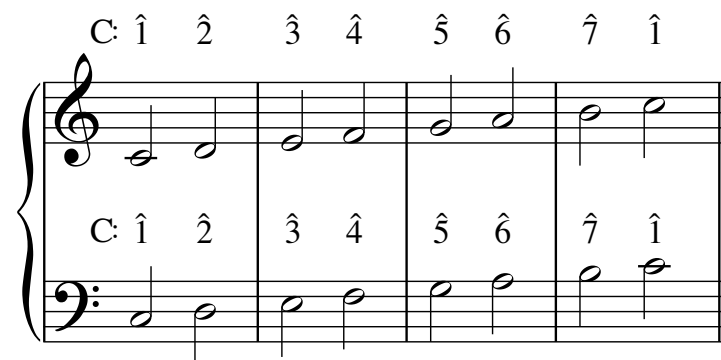


C: I IV V I

Scale degrees:

1̂, 2̂, 3̂, etc.

- These are used for notes within a scale.
- The number refers to the order of the note within a given scale.
- Scale degrees correspond to solfege syllables: do re mi = 1̂ 2̂ 3̂.
- The carat on top of the number is the special symbol used with scale degree numbers.
- The **leading tone** is a special name for 7̂.

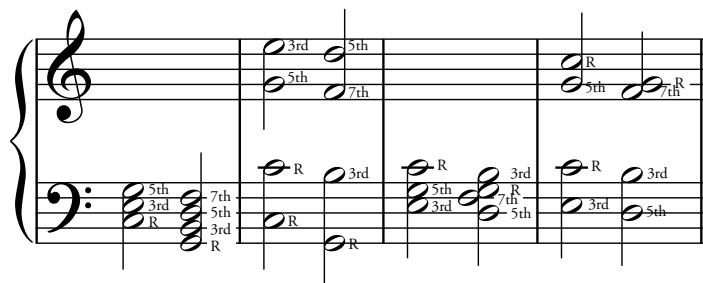


C: 1̂ 2̂ 3̂ 4̂ 5̂ 6̂ 7̂ 1̂

Chord members:

root, third, fifth, seventh

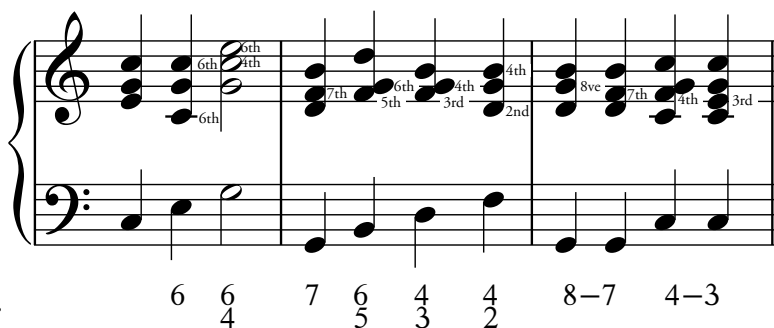
- These are used for different chord members.
- The number refers to the **interval above the chord root**.
- Every chord has a root, third, and fifth; seventh chords add a seventh to this.
- A chord is **inverted** when something other than the root is in the bass.
- In all chords, the **chord seventh** is dissonant and must resolve down by step.



Figures:

$\frac{4}{3}$, $\frac{6}{4}$, etc.

- These are used for **intervals above the bass**.
- Figures often show inversions and suspensions.
- Figures are completely independent from Roman numerals.
- 3rds and 6ths are often not shown in figures, but they are implied from the numbers you do have.



6 $\frac{6}{4}$ 7 $\frac{6}{5}$ $\frac{4}{3}$ $\frac{4}{2}$ 8-7 4-3