

1.3 Diatonic Harmony

inversions of triads

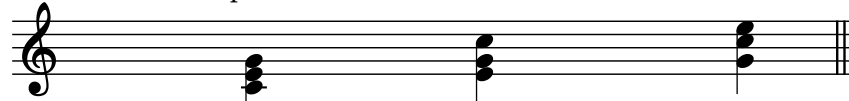
AEGriffiths

Spelling a chord in order from the root up (1 - 3 - 5) is called **root position**.

But we can change the order of the scale degrees (1 - 3 - 5) to make things sound a bit more interesting.

Changing the order of the notes in a chord is called **inversion**.

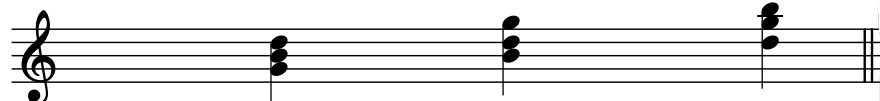
Here we see the C Major chord in: root position 1st inversion 2nd inversion



Scale degree: 1 3 5 3 5 1 5 1 3
Note names: C E G E G C G C E

The exact same notes are used in all 3 versions of this chord - the root, 3rd, and 5th (notes C, E, and G in the key of C Major).

Let's do the inversions for a G Major chord: root position 1st inversion 2nd inversion



Scale degree: 1 3 5 3 5 1 5 1 3
Note names: G B D B D G D G B