

# POPULAF CHORD DICTIONARY for PIANO

This Chord Dictionary shows the Notation, Fingering and Keyboard Diagrams for all of the Important Chords Used in Modern Popular Music.

# by Palmer-Hughes



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ALFRED PUBLISHING CO., INC.

## How to use this BOOK....

This *CHORD DICTIONARY* shows the notation, fingering and keyboard diagrams for all of the important chords used in modern popular, music. In order to make this dictionary useful to the amateur pianist, only the most practical position of each chord is shown. Although: chord accompaniments are sometimes played with the right hand, only\_the left hand chord positions and fingering are shown in the dictionary; section of this book. In the *POPULAR PROGRESSIONS* section of this book both left and right hand chord positions are shown. The chords are first classified according to *KEY* in alphabetical order. Flat or sharp families will be found *FOLLOWING* the letter name they contain. Thus the key families of the chords will be found in the following order:

### A A b B B b C C# D D b E E F F# G G b

This system is used rather than chromatic order, as it is more consistent with proper alphabetizing. Under each key family, the chords are arranged in the following order:

### MAJOR, MINOR, DIMINISHED, AUGMENTED SIXTH CHORDS SEVENTH CHORDS

(whose names contain no numbers larger than 7)

#### NINTH CHORDS

(all chords containing the number 9 in the chord name] **ELEVENTH CHORDS** 

### THIRTEENTH CHORDS

The *DOMINANT SEVENTH CHORD*, which is simply termed a "7th chord" in popular music, is given in two forms; the complete chord and the three-note form. The three-note dominant seventh with the fifth omitted often sounds better than the full chord. It is easier to play, and frequently makes a more pleasing progression to the following chord.

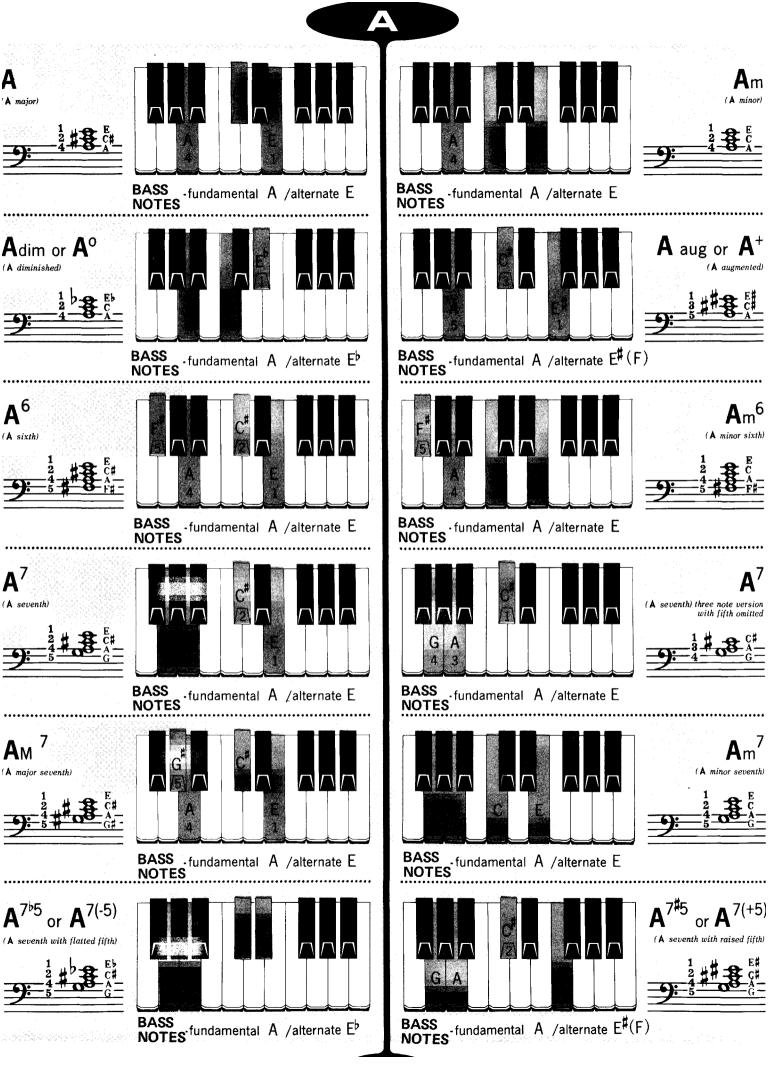
*Two BASS NOTES* are given for each chord. These are used as Bass Notes for the accompanying chord. The Fundamental, or root bass note, is given first, and is the one most frequently used with the chord. The second bass note that is given is called the Alternate bass note. It is particularly useful in playing rhythmic accompaniments, in which the little finger plays the fundamental bass note first, followed by one or more of the chords, then the alternate bass note, followed by one or more chords.

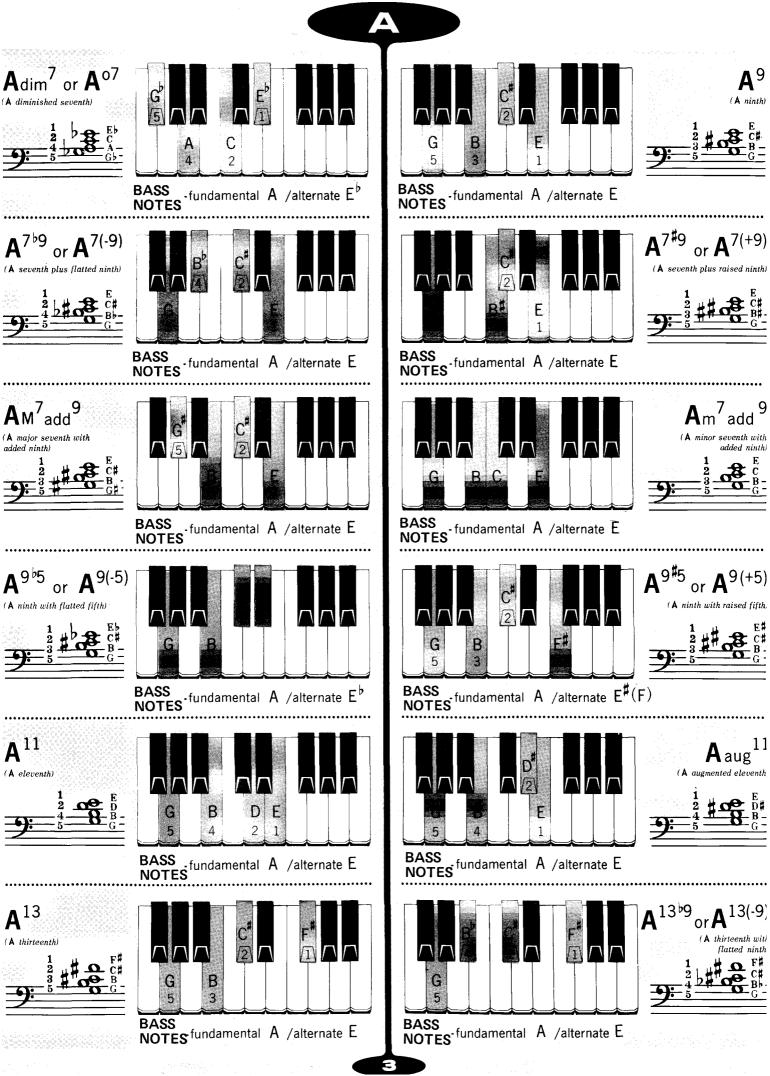
*FINGERING* indicated for each chord may be regarded as a Basic Fingering. Whatever is most comfortable for the individual hand is usually best. Fingerings may be altered for certain chord progressions. It is very common to substitute the 4th finger for the 5th finger.

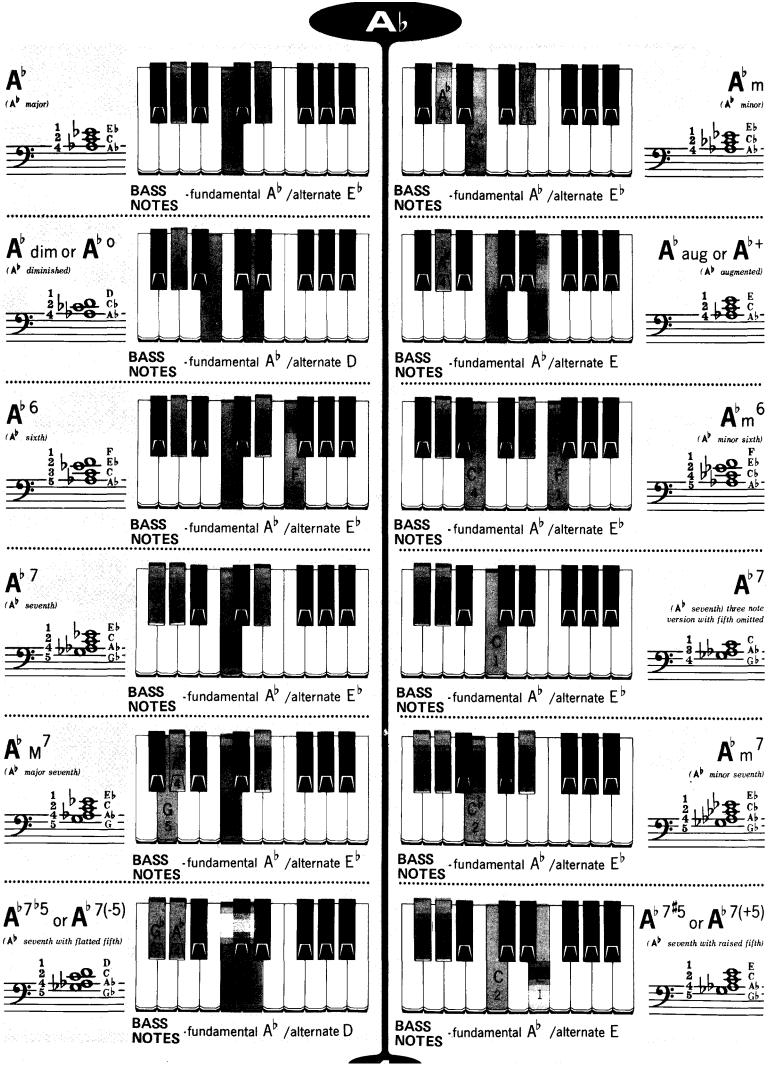
Those who wish to learn the rules for the formation of the chords contained in this book, and the reasons for the selection of the particular positions of each chord given, will find valuable information on pages 30-33.

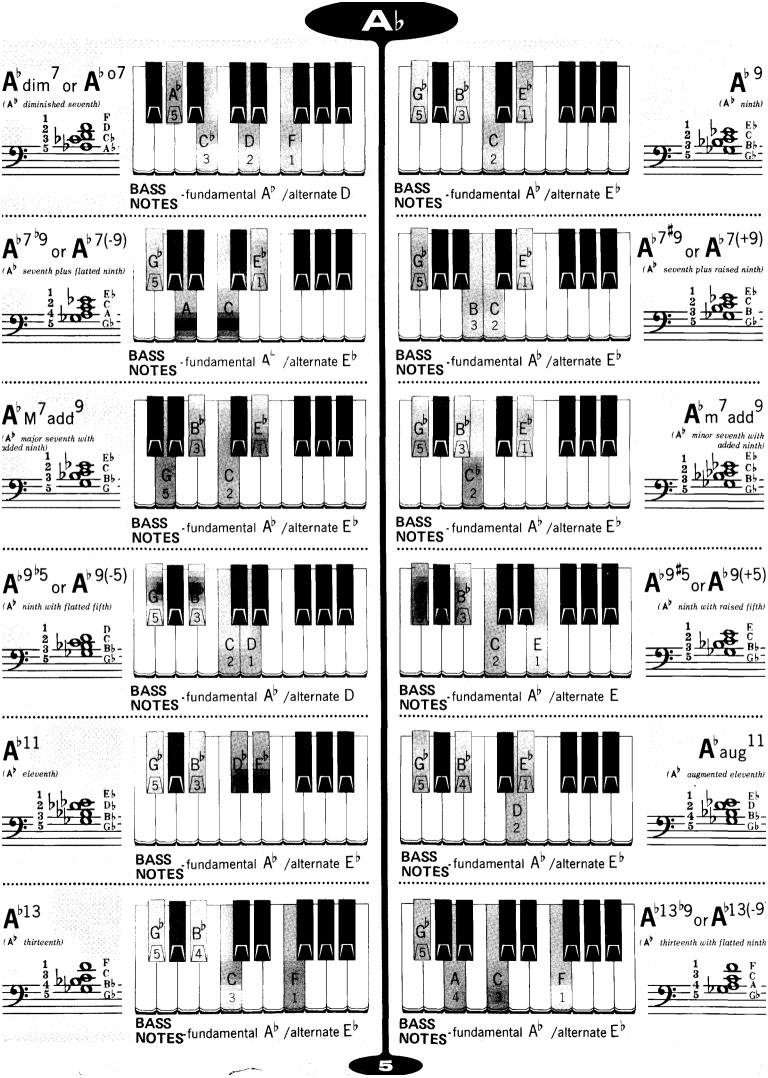
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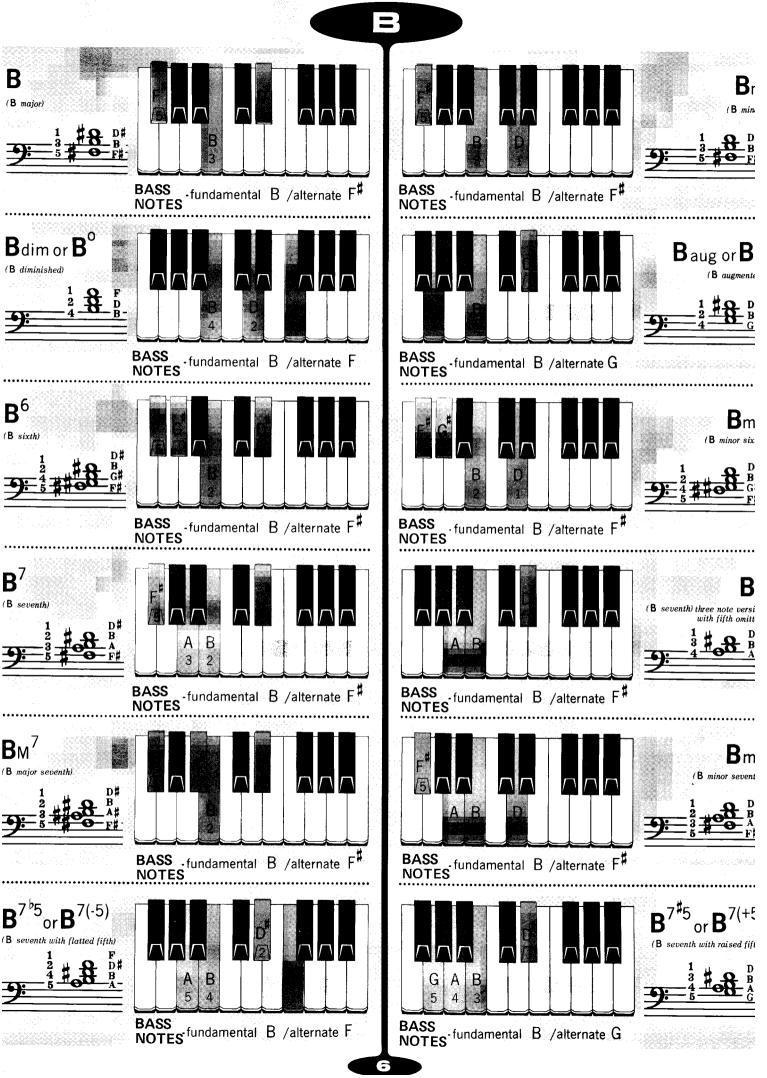
Double sharps ( $\aleph$ ) and double flats (b) are used in this book only where it is impractical to spell the chords with simpler enharmonic notation. (A double sharp raises a note two half-steps. A double flat lowers a note two half-steps.)

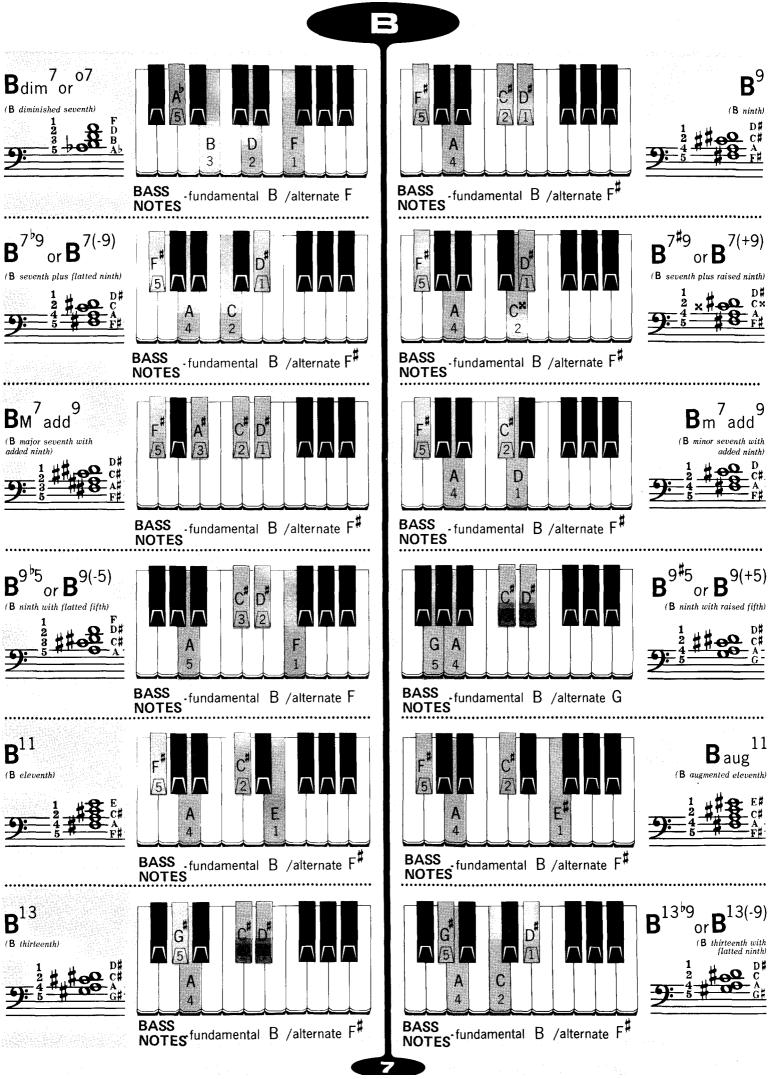


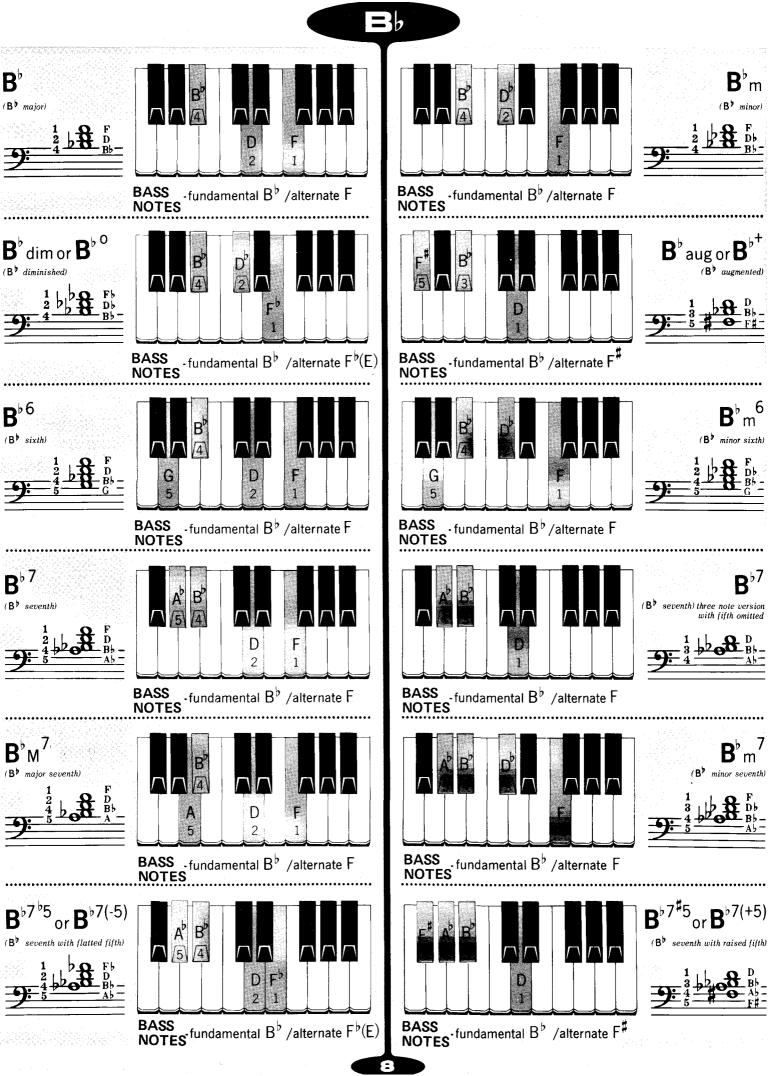


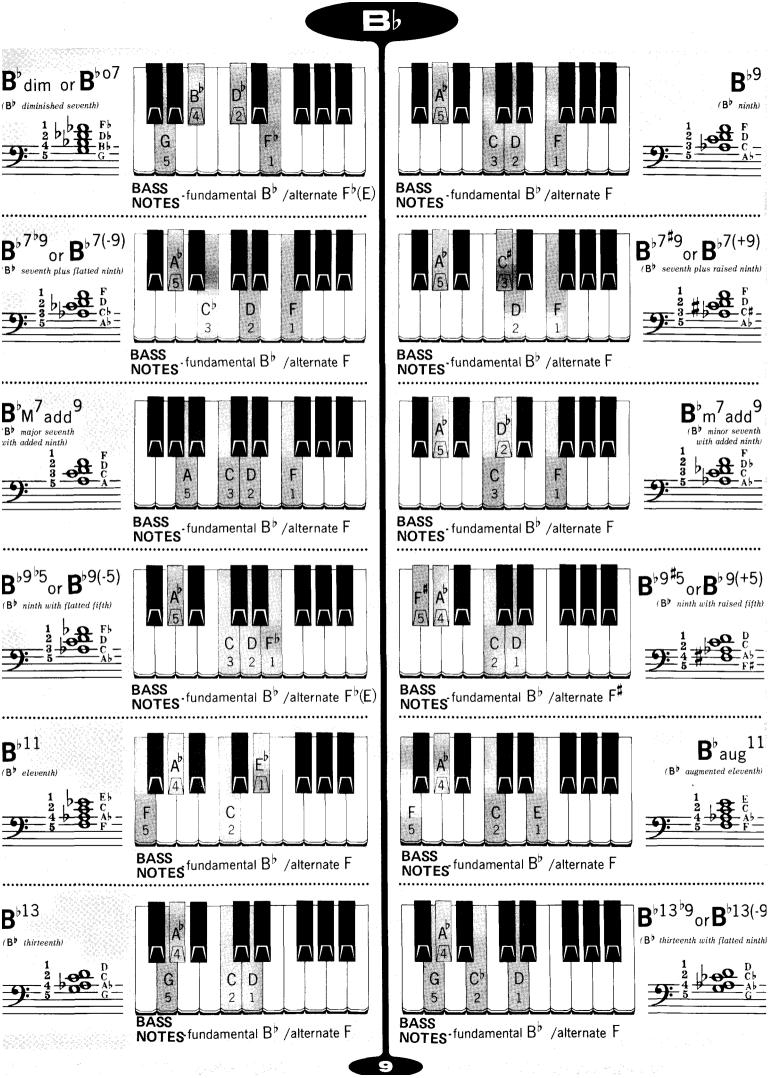


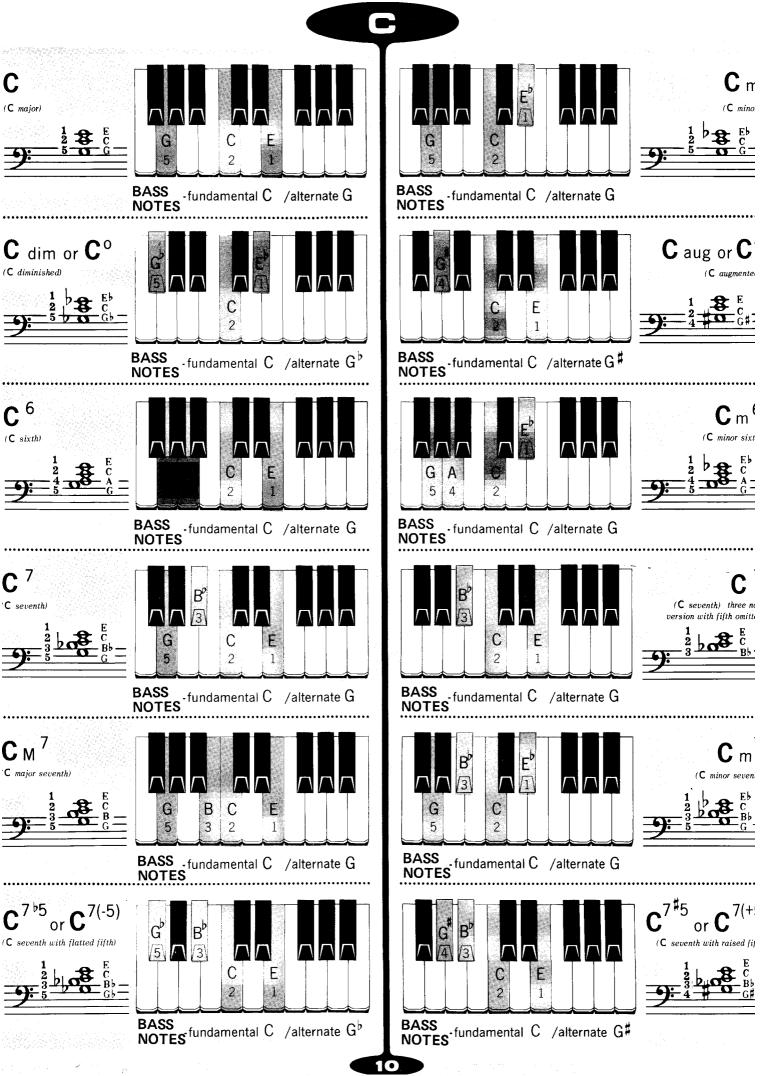


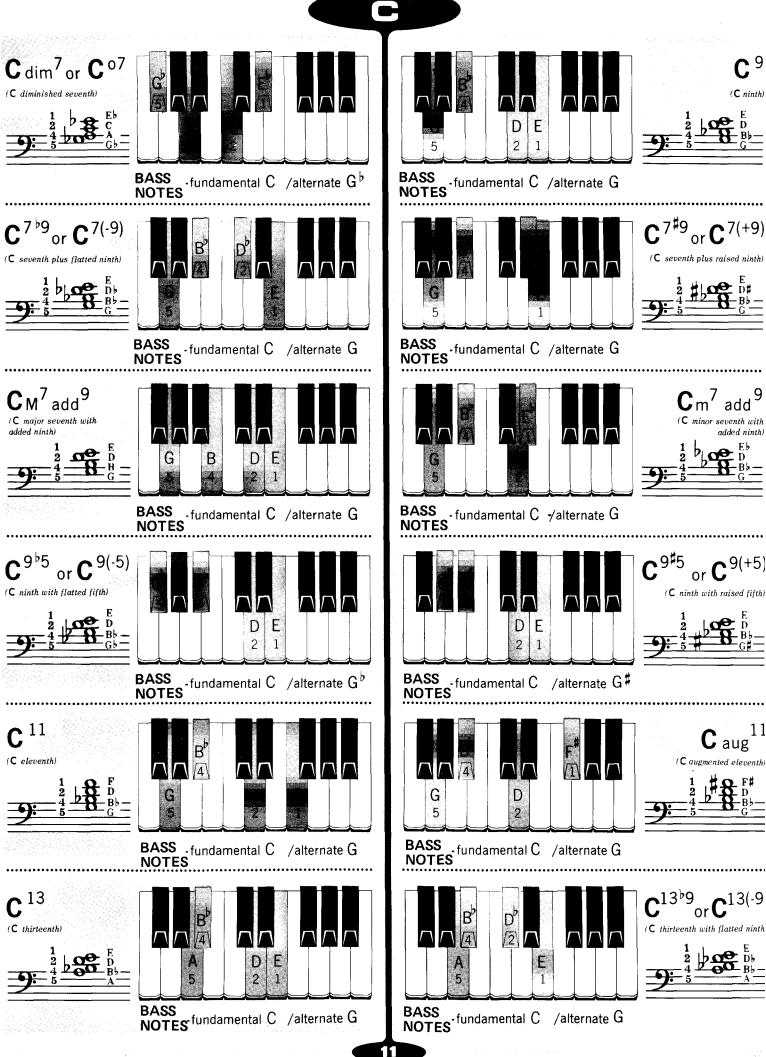


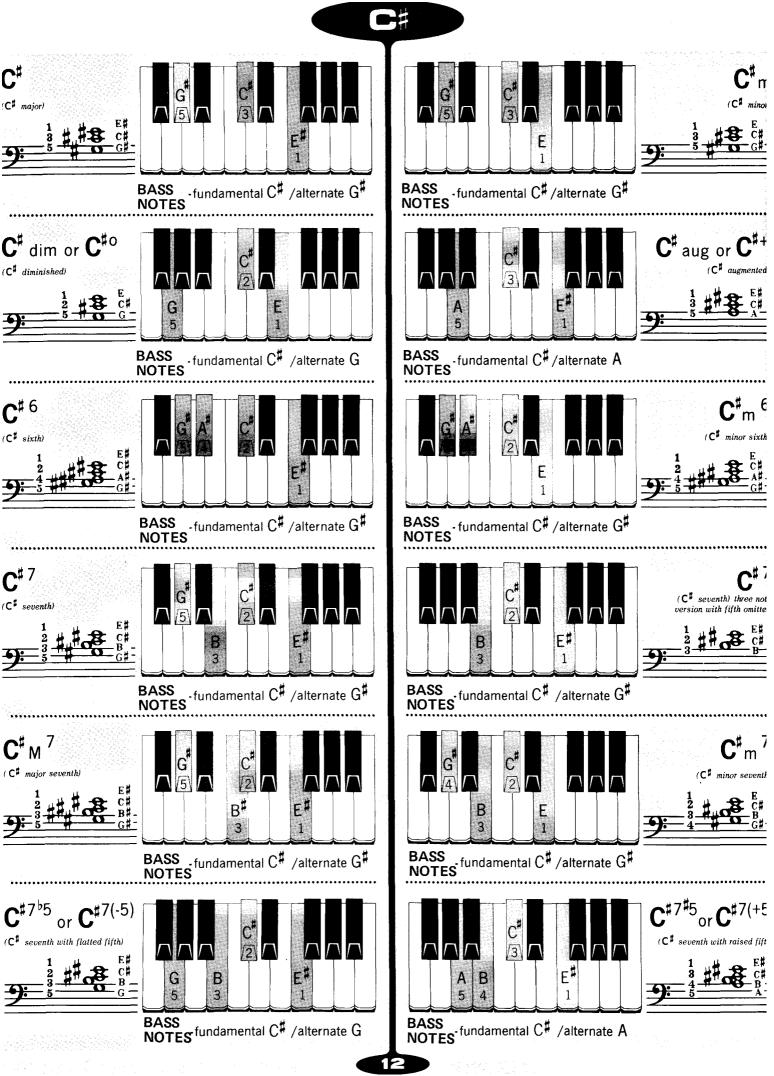


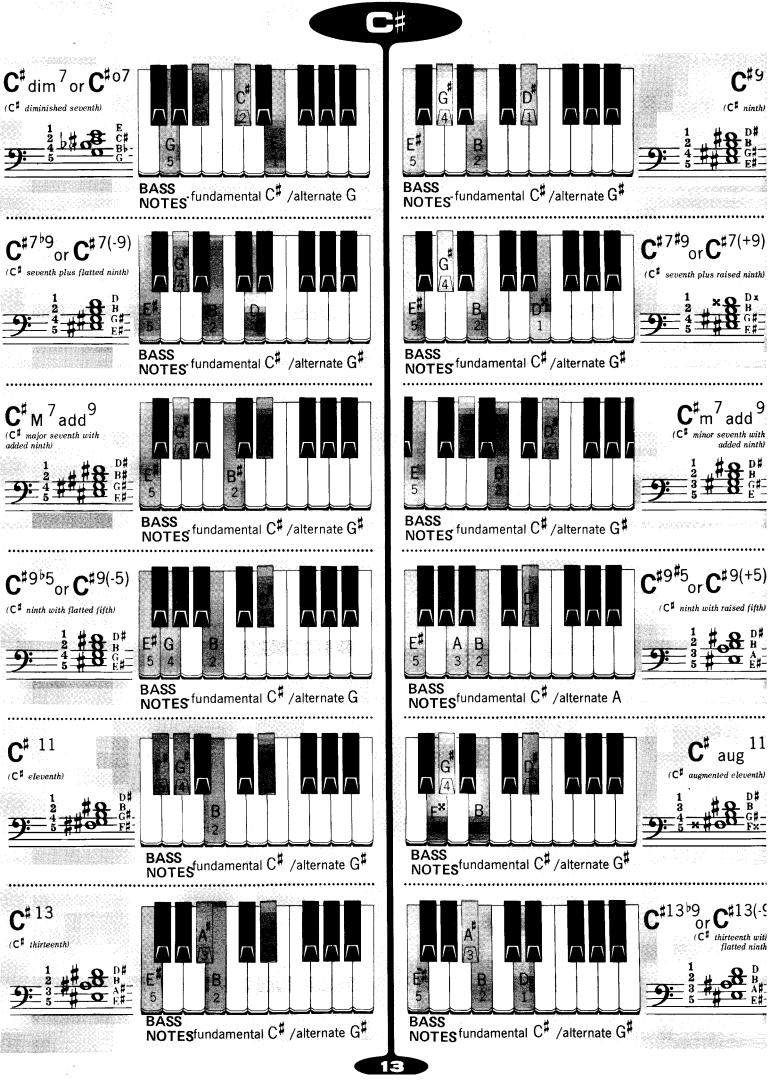


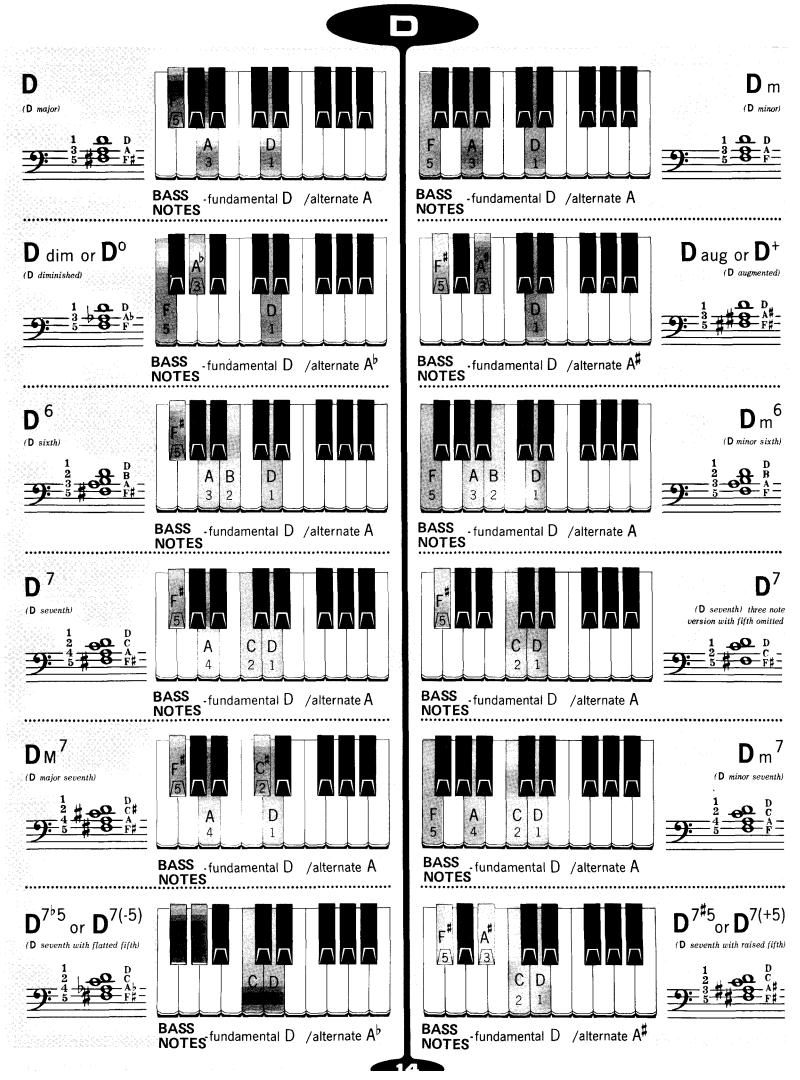


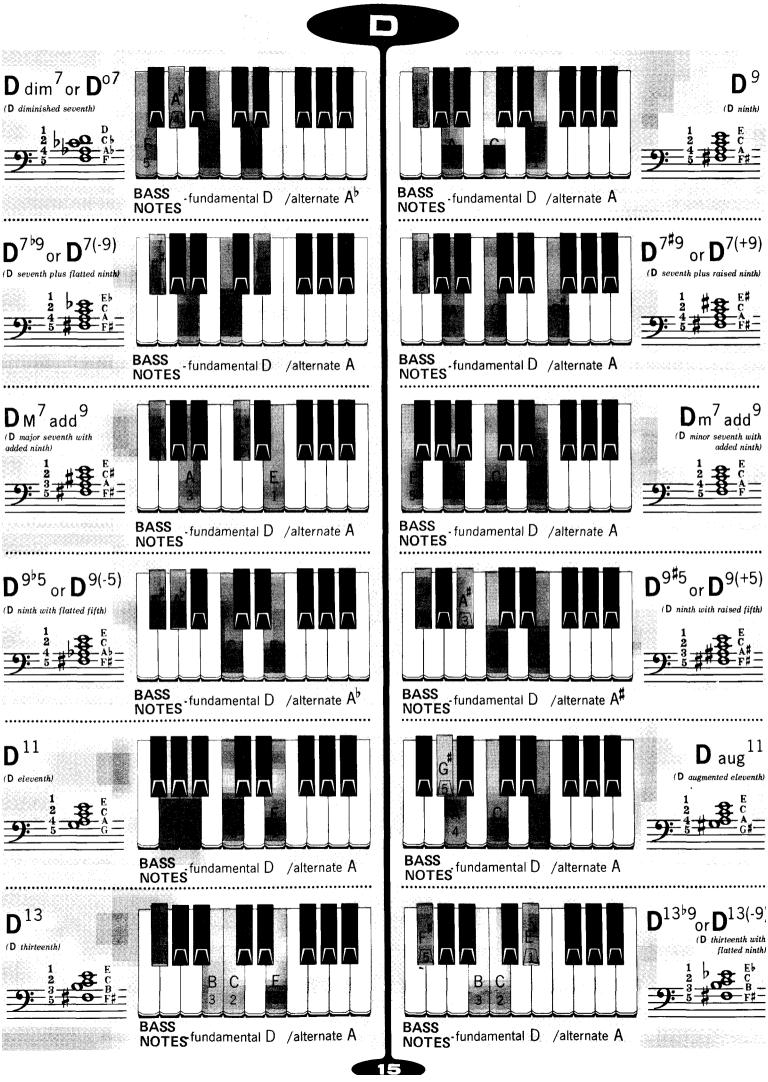


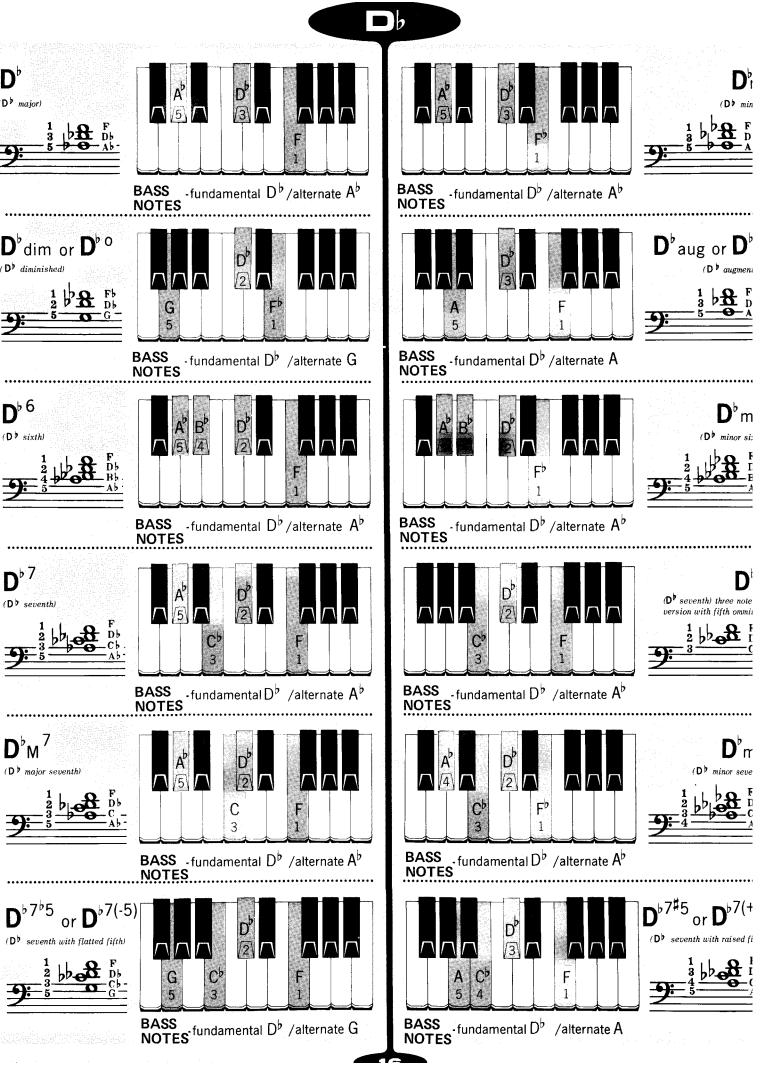


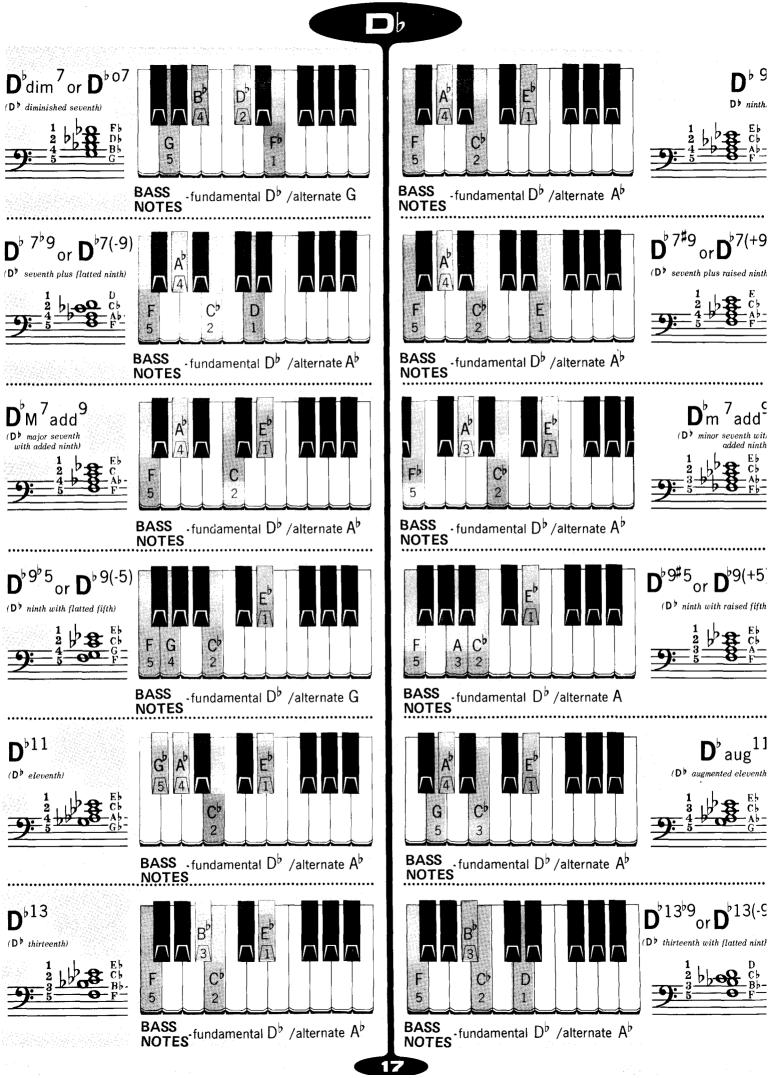


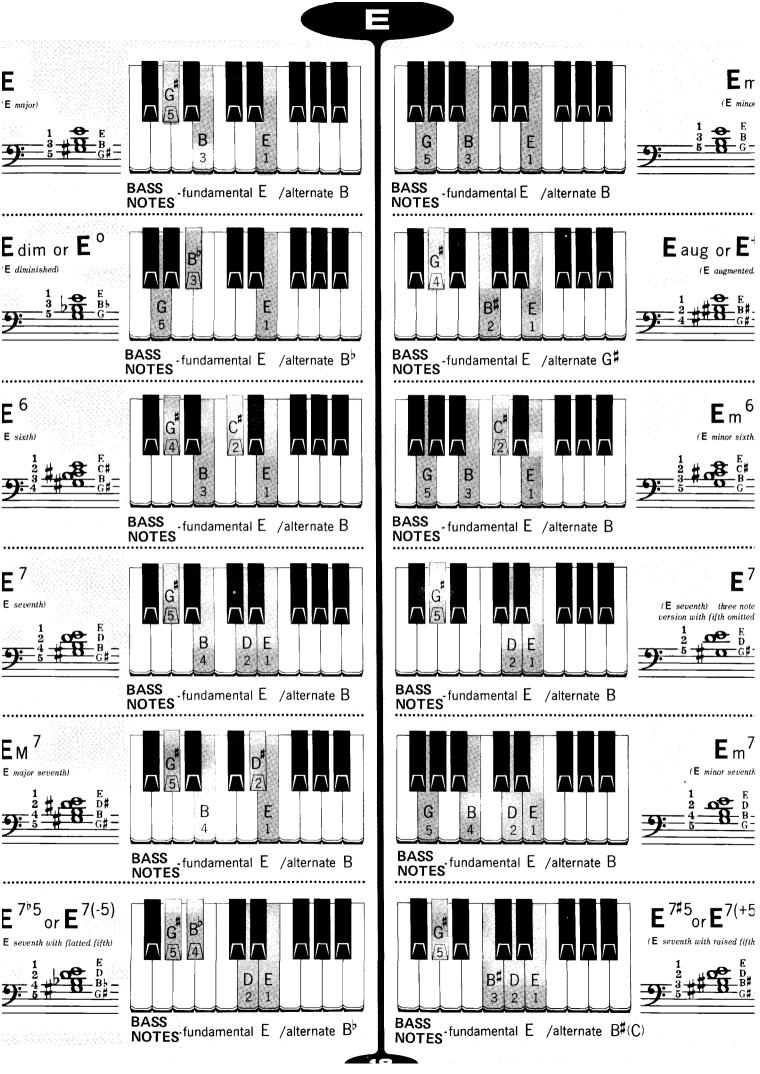


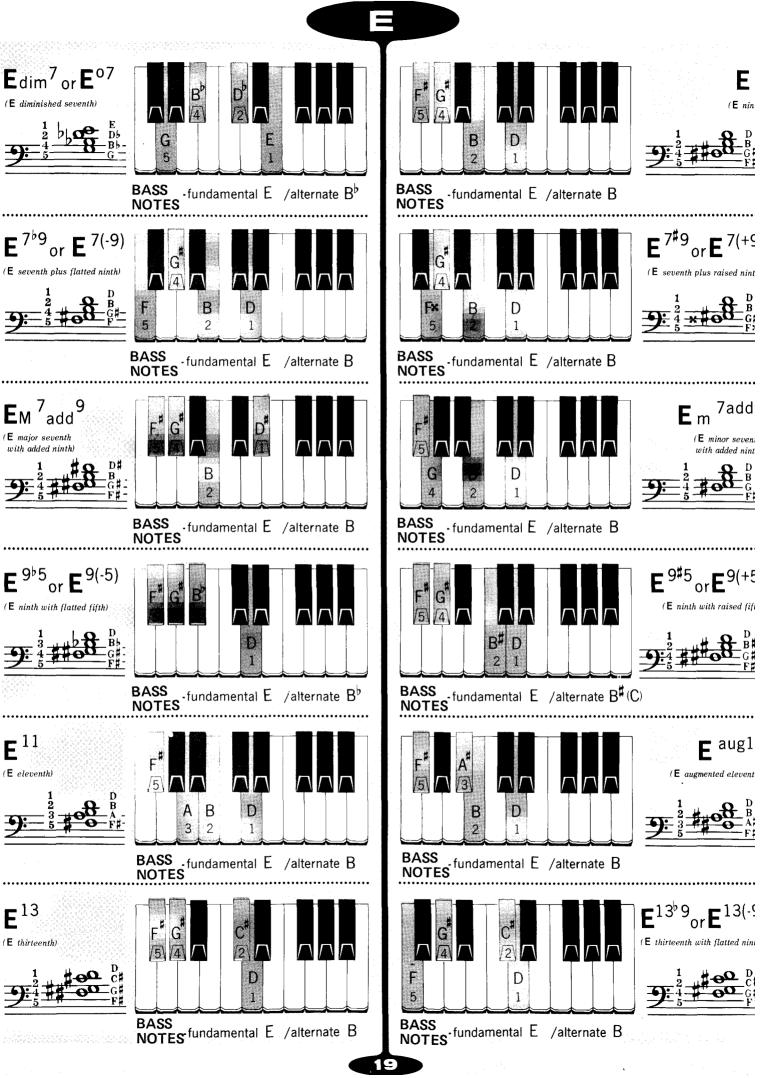


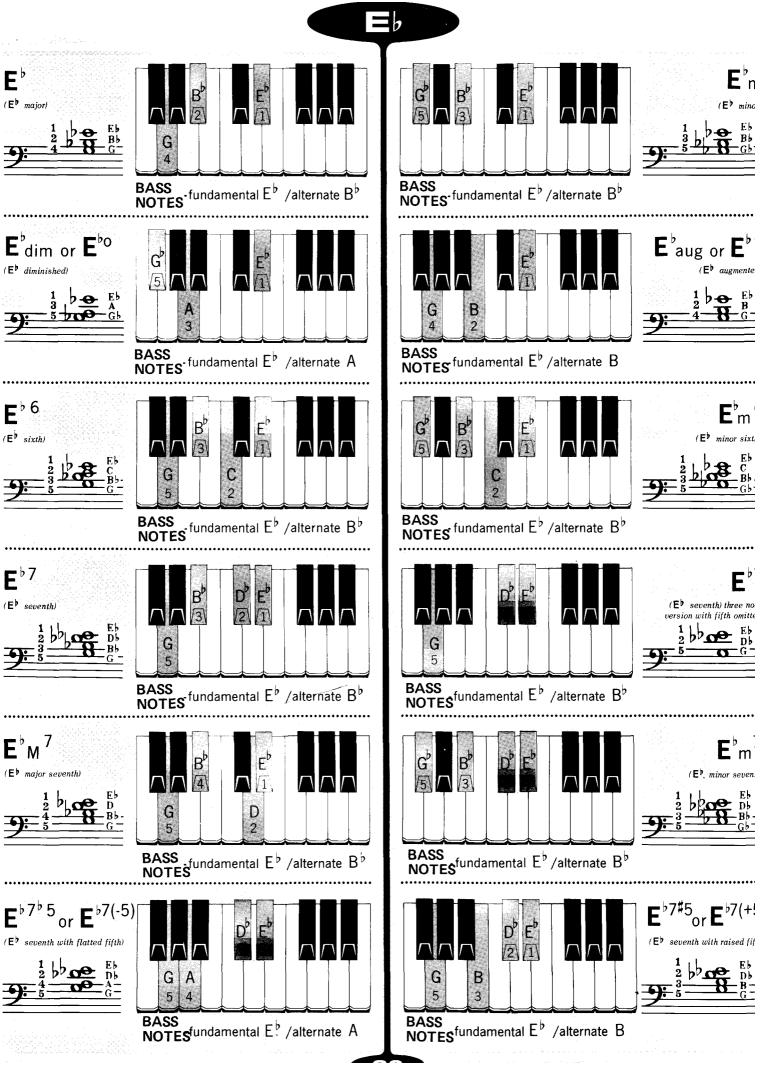


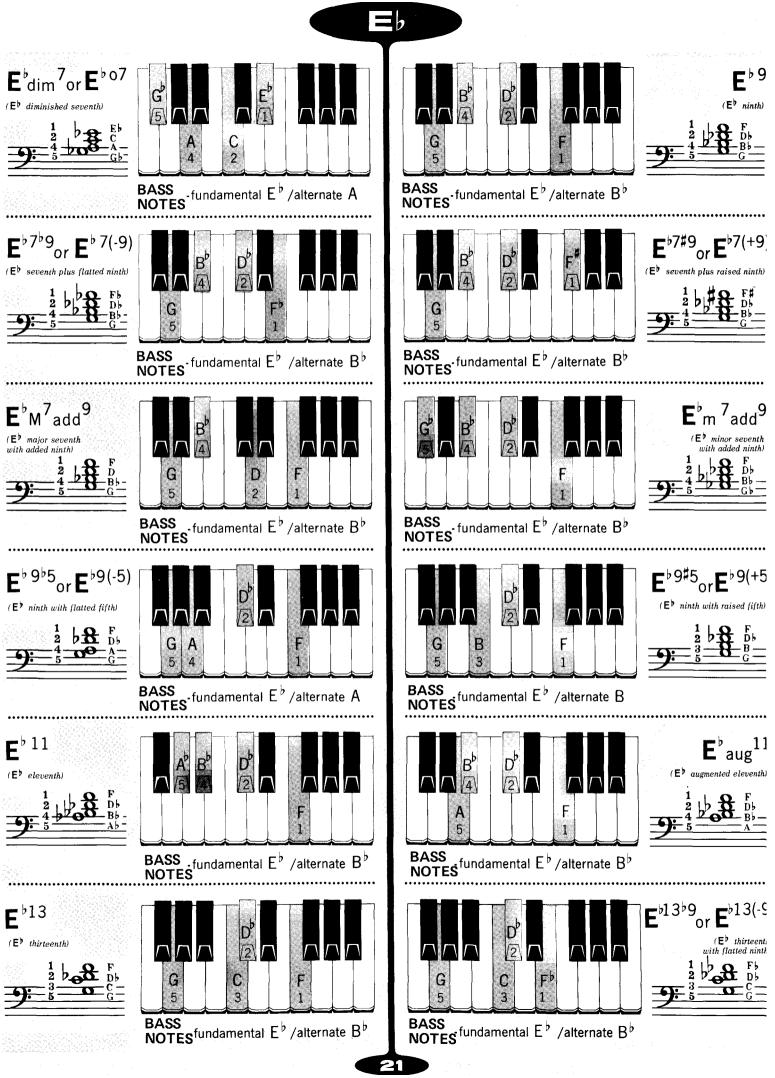


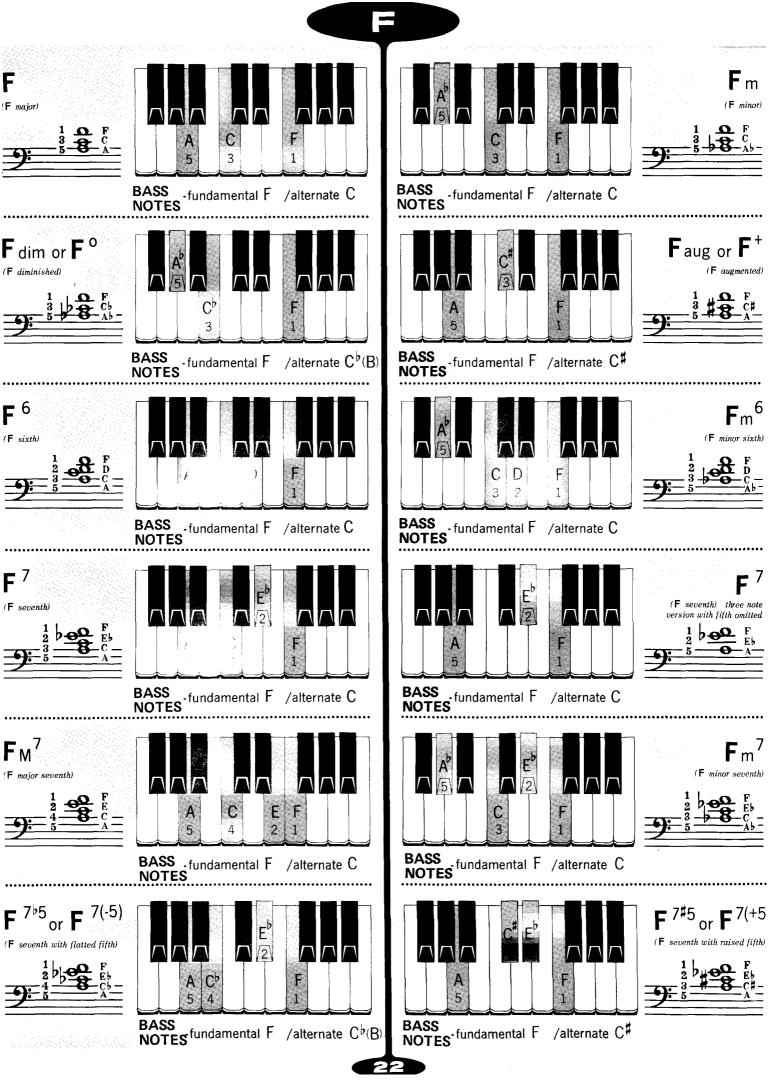


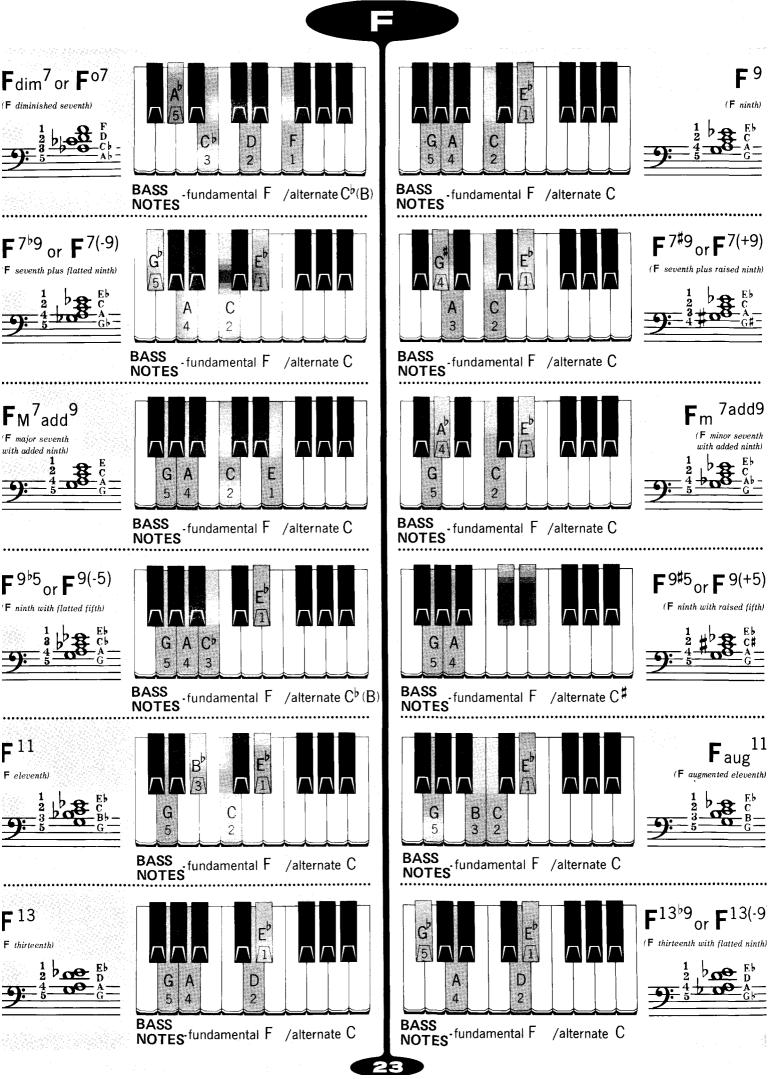


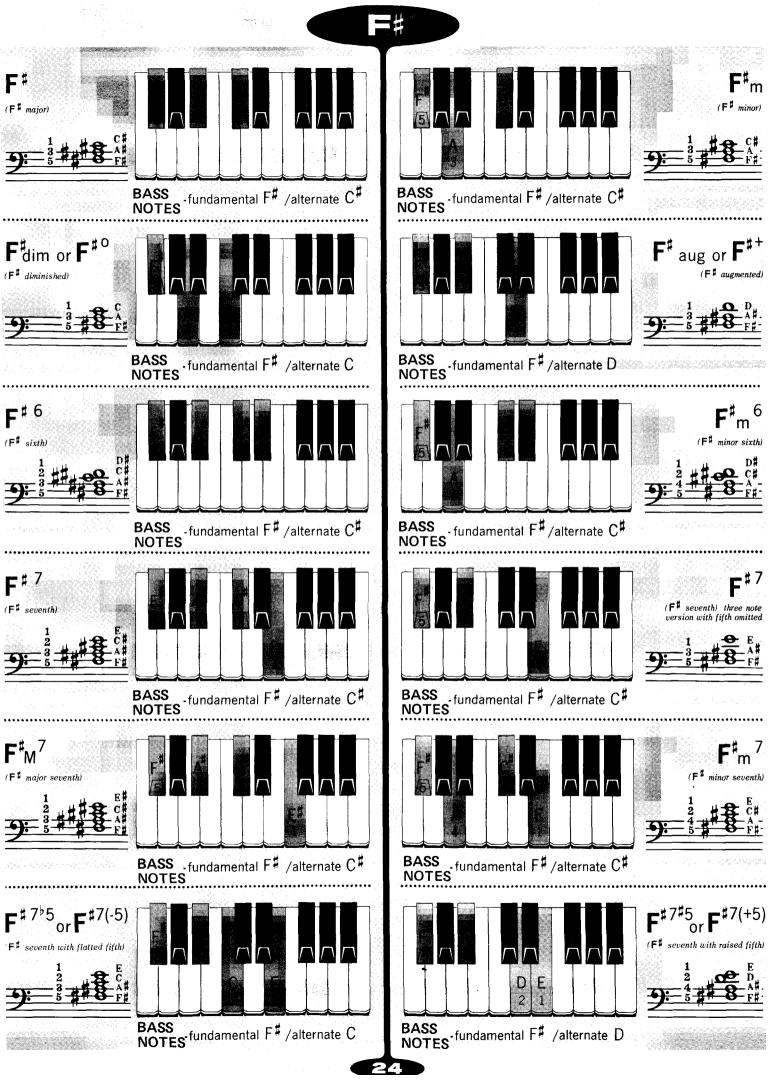


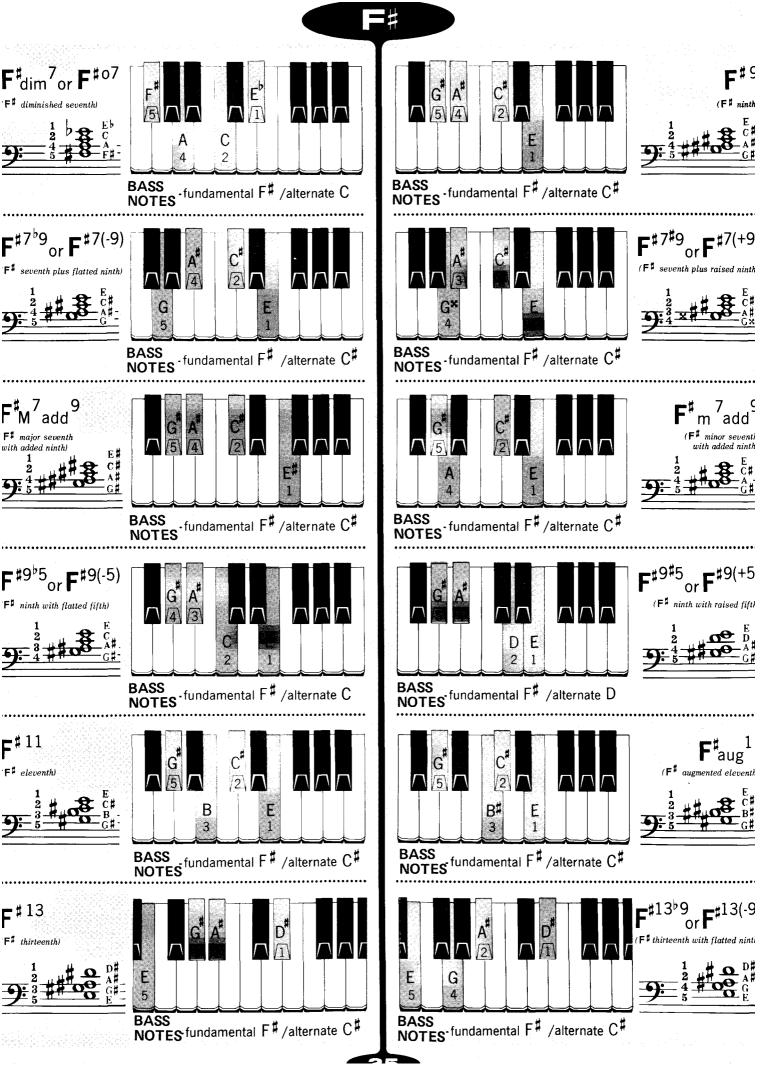


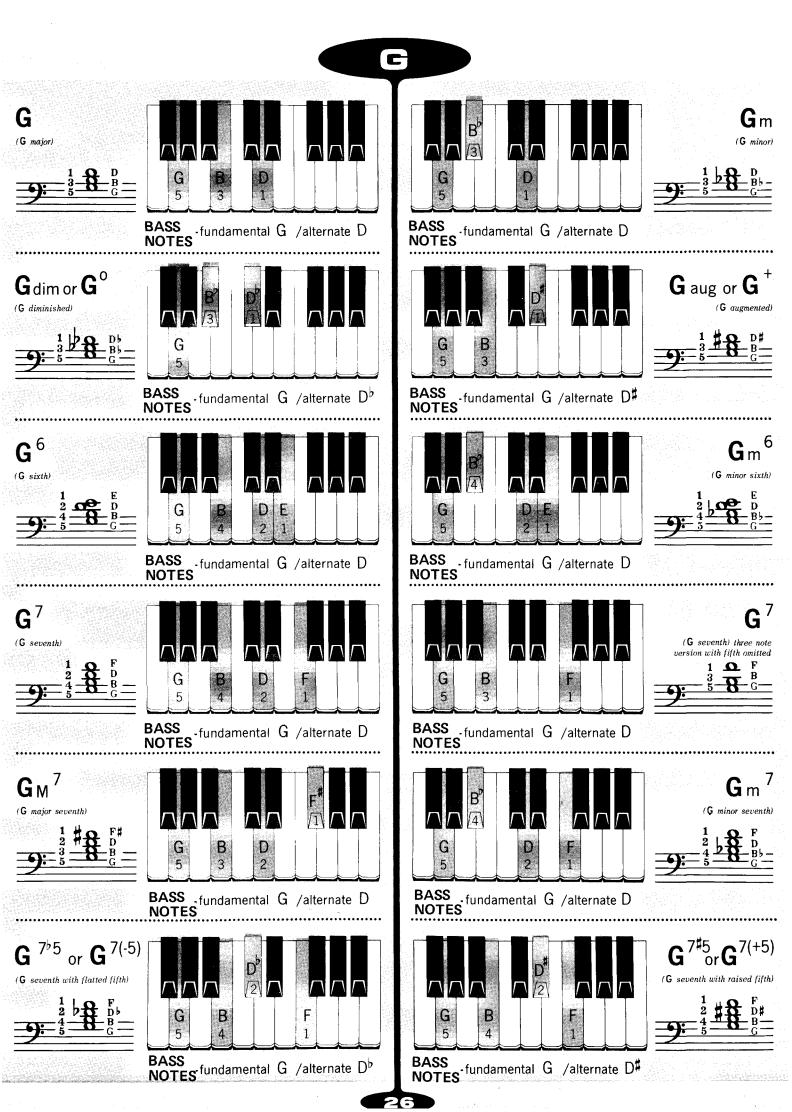


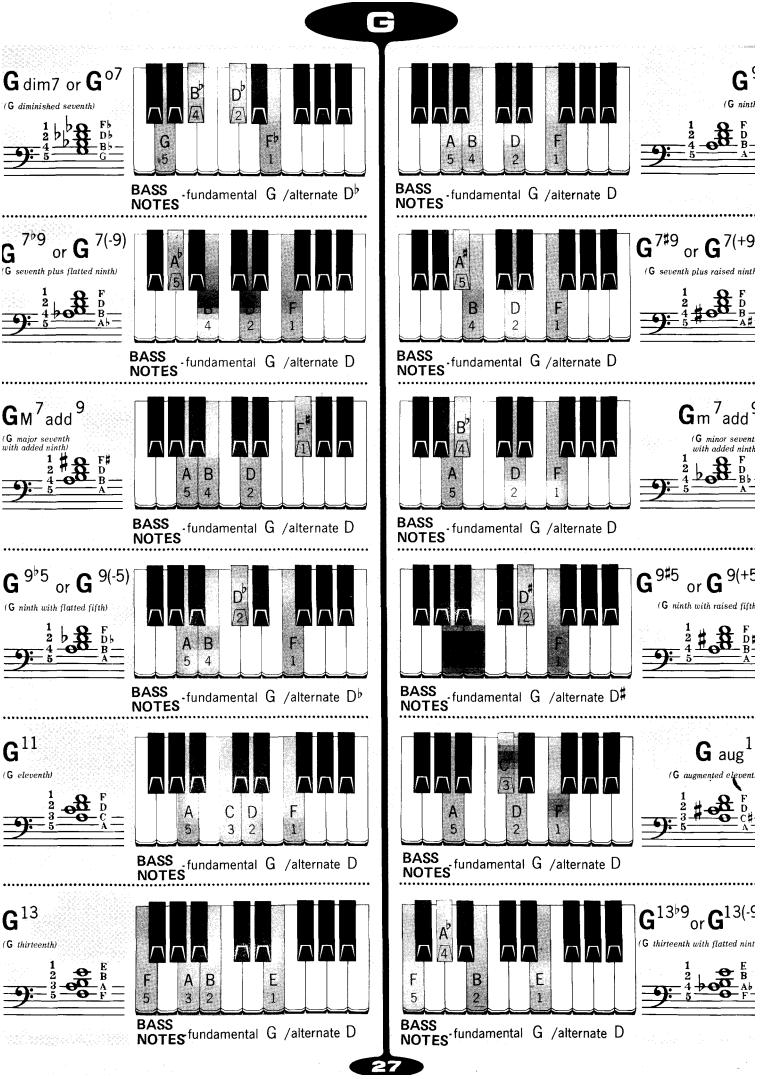


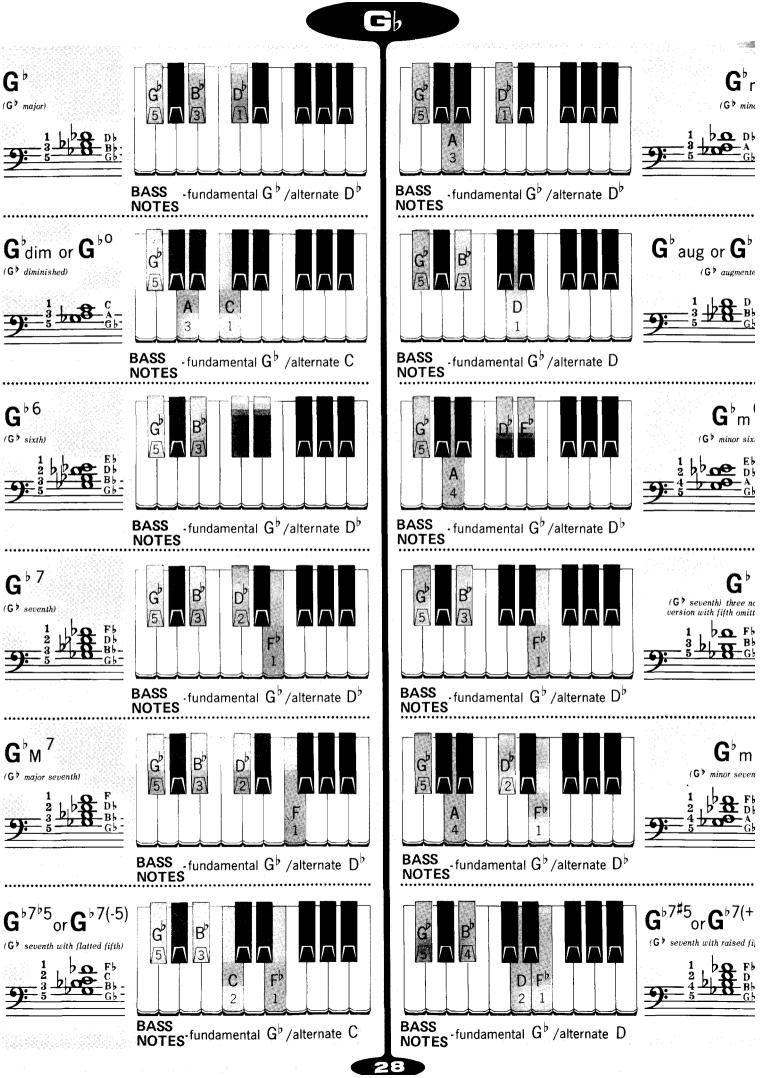


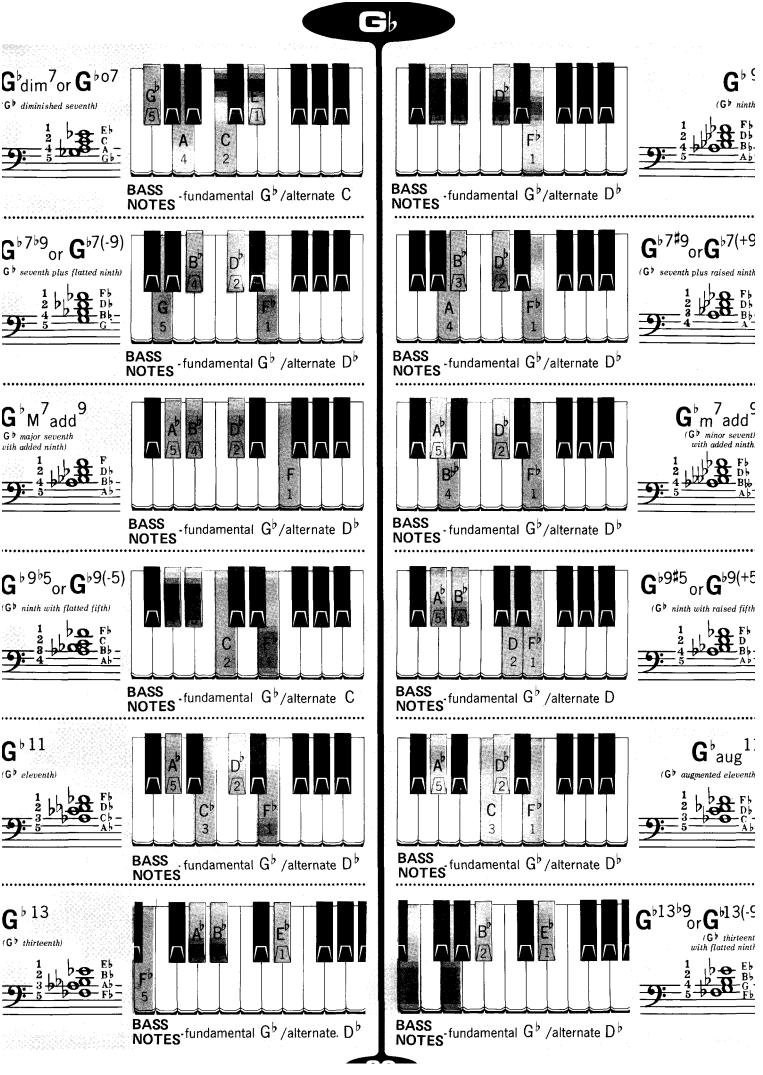












# CHORD CHART

## ANY KEY

MAJOR CHORD – 1·3·5 BASS – fund. 1/alt. 5 NOTES	MINOR CHORD $-1 \cdot 3b \cdot 5$ BASS $-$ fund. 1/alt. 5 NOTES	DIMINI SEVEN CHORD BASS NOTES
DIMINISHED	AUGMENTED	SEVEN plus flat
CHORD – 1·3b·5b BASS – fund. 1/alt. 5b NOTES	CHORD – 1·3·5 <sup>#</sup> BASS – fund. 1/alt. 5 <sup>#</sup> NOTES	CHORD BASS NOTES
SIXTH	MINOR SIXTH	MAJOF with ad
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	CHORD - $1 \cdot 3^{b} \cdot 5 \cdot 6$ BASS - fund. 1/alt. 5 NOTES	CHORD BASS NOTES
SEVENTH	SEVENTH with fifth omitted	NINTH with fla
CHORD – $1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7b$ BASS – fund. 1/alt. 5 NOTES	CHORD – $1 \cdot 3 \cdot 7^{b}$ BASS – fund. 1/alt. 5 NOTES	CHORD BASS NOTES
MAJOR SEVENTH	MINOR SEVENTH	ELEVE
CHORD – 1·3·5·7 BASS – fund. 1/alt. 5 NOTES	CHORD – $1 \cdot 3b \cdot 5 \cdot 7b$ BASS – fund. 1/alt. 5 NOTES	CHORD BASS NOTES
<b>SEVENTH</b> with flatted fifth	SEVENTH with raised fifth	THIRT
CHORD – 1·3·5b·7b BASS – fund. 1/alt. 5b NOTES	CHORD — 1 • 3 • 5 ♯ • 7 ♭ BASS — fund. 1/alt. 5 ♯ NOTES	CHORD BASS NOTES

#### ANY KEY NISHED NINTH ENTH CHORD - 3.5.76.9 - 1.3b.5b.7bb RD BASS - fund. 1/alt. 5 - fund, 1/alt, 5b NOTES S ENTH SEVENTH plus raised ninth flatted ninth - 3.5.76.9# - 3·5·76·96 CHORD ٢D - fund. 1/alt. 5 BASS - fund. 1/alt. 5 NOTES S OR SEVENTH **MINOR SEVENTH** added ninth with added ninth ٦D - 3.5.7.9 - 3b.5.7b.9 CHORD - fund. 1/alt. 5 BASS - fund. 1/alt. 5 S NOTES NINTH ГΗ with raised fifth flatted fifth - 3.5#.76.9 - 3.56.76.9 CHORD ۲D - fund. 1/alt. 5 BASS - fund, 1/alt. 5b NOTES 23 AUGMENTED VENTH **ELEVENTH** - 5.7b.9.11 RD CHORD - 5·7b·9·11# – fund. 1/alt. 5 BASS - fund. 1/alt, 5 ES NOTES RTEENTH THIRTEENTH with flatted ninth ٦D - 76.9.10.13

### How to use the CHARTS

All chords are formed by combining certain scale tones according to definite rules. For example, any Major Chord is formed by combining the 1st, 3rd and 5th tones of the Major Scale. (See the chart above, under "MAJOR" and opposite "CHORD".)

By applying this rule to the Major Scale Chart on the following page, you will see that the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes of the A Major Scale are A, C# and E, respectively. Thus the A Major Chord consists of the notes A, C# and E.

By using the Chord Chart above, together with the Major Scale Chart on the following page, the notes of any chord contained in this book may be quickly determined.

- fund. 1/alt. 5

CHORD

BASS NOTES - 7b.9b.10.1.

-. fund. 1/alt. 5

Note that the Fundamental Bass Note is *always* the root (1) of the chord. The Alternating Bass Note is *always* the 5th, but it may be lowered or raised  $\frac{1}{2}$  step, to correspond with the 5th used in its particular chord.

30

MAJOR SCALE CHART													
	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	ŀČ.
Α	A	B	<b>C</b> #	D	E	<b>F</b> #	<b>G</b> #	A	B	<b>C</b> #	D	Ε	F#
Ab	Ab	₿þ	C	Dþ	E۶	F	G	A۶	₿þ	C	Dþ	E۶	F
B	В	Cŧ	D#		<b>F</b> #	G#	Aŧ	B	C#	D#	Ε	F#	G♯
B	Bþ	C	D	Eþ	F	G	A	Bþ	C	D	Eþ	F	G
С		D			C	A	B		D	Ε	F	G	Α
C#	<b>C</b> #	D#	<b>E</b> #	F#	G♯	<b>A</b> #	<b>B</b> ♯	<b>C</b> #	<b>D</b> #	E <sup>#</sup>	F#	G#	A♯
D	D		<b>F</b> #	G	A	B	<b>C</b> #	D		<b>F</b> #	G	Α	B
D,	Dþ	٦þ		G۶	A۶	Bþ	C	Dþ	E۶	F	G♭	<b>A</b> b	B
E			G#	A	B	<b>C</b> #	D#	E	F#	G#	Α	В	<b>C</b> ‡
E۶	E٥		G	Ab	₿♭	C	D	Eb		6	Ab	Bb	C
F	F	G	A	<b>B</b> b	C	D	E	F	G	Α	₿ <sup>♭</sup>	<u>ר</u>	D
F#	<b>F</b> #	<b>G</b> #	<b>A</b> ♯	В	C♯	D#	<b>E</b> #	F#	G#	<b>A</b> ♯	B	<b>C</b> #	D
G	C	A	b	C	D		F#		A	B	C	D	Ε
Gþ	Gþ	Ab	Bb	Cþ	Dþ	Eþ	F	Gþ	Aþ	₿b	C۶	Db	Ef

# **About CHORD POSITIONS**

Any chord may be played in many different positions on the piano.

For example, the A Major Chord, which consists of the Notes A, C# and E, may be played in all of the following positions:



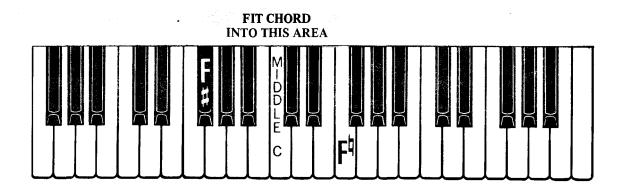
Since each of the above chords contains only the notes A, C#, and E, each chord is called an A Major Chord, regardless of its position. When the root note (A) is the lowest note of the chord, the chord is said to be in the "root position". If the root note is the upper note, it is said to be in the "first inversion". If the root note is the note just below the upper note, the chord is in the "second inversion".

In using chords to accompany a melody, it is important to choose positions that are neither too high nor too low. If the position of the chord is too low, the sound will be thick, or "muddy".

If the position of the chord is too high, the sound will resemble a "merry-go-round" or calliope, when the chord is used rhythmically. If it is used for sustained accompaniment, it may interfere with the audibility of the melody.

The chord should be played in such a position that it will fill the gap between the melody and the bass. It will usually sound best in the Central Register.

For this reason, the best position of a left hand chord used to accompany a melody lies between F# (Middle C in between) and F<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.



### ALL OF THE CHORDS IN THE REFERENCE SECTION OF THIS BOOK ARE SHOWN IN POSITIONS THAT FIT INTO THIS PORTION OF THE PIANO KEYBOARD.

(One or two notes leeway in either direction is permitted in some cases, to insure the best chord progressions.)

### The AUGMENTED and DIMINISHED SEVENTH CHORDS

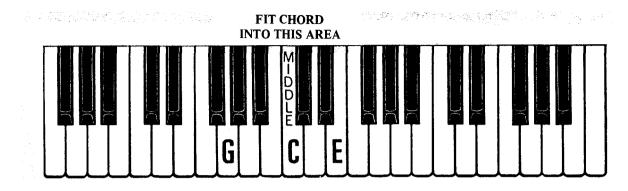
The Augmented Chord and the Diminished Seventh Chord are symmetrical in construction. That is, they have the same interval between each note. When these chords are inverted they can then be considered as becoming chords in root position, with the lower note as the new root. This will explain why the Augmented Chord of B is the same as the Augmented Chord of G, when it is placed in the keyboard range suggested above. For the same reason, the G Diminished Seventh and the B6 Diminished Seventh are identical chords for the left hand. The bass notes, however, are different, and since they represent the lowest or root note of the chord, they are the final determining factor that give such chords their name.

### ONCE THE CORRECT NOTES OF A GIVEN CHORD ARE DETERMINED, IT IS A SIMPLE MATTER TO FIT THEM INTO THE SUGGESTED RANGE.

*For example:* Determine the notes and the correct position of the C Major Chord. Referring to the CHORD CHART on page 30, we see that the CHORD NOTES are the 1st, 3rd and 5th tones of the scale. Referring to the MAJOR SCALE CHART on page 31, we see that

the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes of the scale are C, E and G.

We then see that it will be necessary to place the G below the C and the E, in order to fit the chord into the *suggested* range:



Because these chords are all played within a small range of keys, left hand motion is minimized and better chord progressions result.

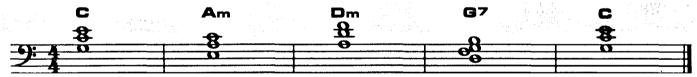
The advantage of using chord positions that fit into one general area for the left hand is clearly shown in the following example:

THE BASIC "TURN AROUND" IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON CHORD SEQUENCES TO BE FOUND IN POPULAR MUSIC.

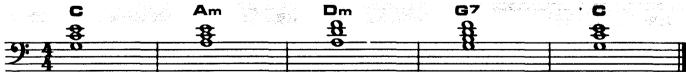
IN THE KEY OF C MAJOR, THE TURN AROUND WOULD BE PLAYED LIKE THIS, IF ALL CHORDS WERE PLAYED IN ROOT POSITION:



THE TURN AROUND WOULD BE PLAYED LIKE THIS, IF THE CHORD POSITIONS WERE DETERMINED BY POINTING TO THE ROOT OF THE CHORD WITH THE INDEX FINGER:



THE TURN AROUND IS PLAYED LIKE THIS, WHEN THE POSITIONS SHOWN IN THIS BOOK ARE USED:



The latter system is much the simplest, because the long jumps made by the left hand in the other two examples are eliminated. The chord progressions are smoother and more pleasing to the ear. The voice-leadings are harmonically correct, and the results are much more professional in quality.

### "POP" PROGRESSIONS SECTION

The following 15 pages of "POP" PROGRESSIONS cover the most commonly used chord progressions (sequence of chords) heard in Popular Music. Whatever kind of music you like, you will find several progressions representing the different STYLES of FOLK, COUNTRY, DIXIELAND, GOSPEL, ROCK (Light, Medium and Heavy) and POPULAR BALLADS.

The chords for each "POP" PROGRESSION are shown for the LEFT HAND, 9 (BASS CLEF), and for the RIGHT HAND, 6 (TREBLE CLEF).

Using the chords shown for the LEFT HAND will teach you how to play a "POP" PROGRESSION or "POP" SONG as a PIANO SOLO.

Using the chords shown for the RIGHT HAND will teach you how to ACCOMPANY yourself when singing and how to play an ACCOMPANIMENT when playing in a group. When playing this style, use your left hand to play the fundamental and alternate bass notes in octaves while playing the chords in your right hand.

**CHORDS FOR "POP" PROGRESSION 1** 

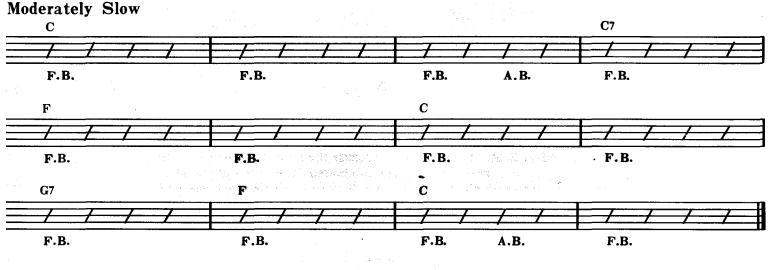


### HOW TO READ and PLAY "POP" PROGRESSION MUSIC

- 1. PLAY THE INDICATED CHORD (C, C7, F or G7) ONCE FOR EACH HASH MARK.////
- 2. PLAY THE FUNDAMENTAL BASS NOTE WHEN THE ABBREVIATION F. B. IS WRITTEN UNDER THE HASH MARK.
- 3. PLAY THE ALTERNATE BASS NOTE WHEN THE ABBREVIATION A. **B. IS** WRITTEN UNDER THE HASH MARK.
- 4. CONTINUE PLAYING THE INDICATED CHORD WHEN NO BASS NOTE IS WRITTEN UNDER THE HASH MARK.

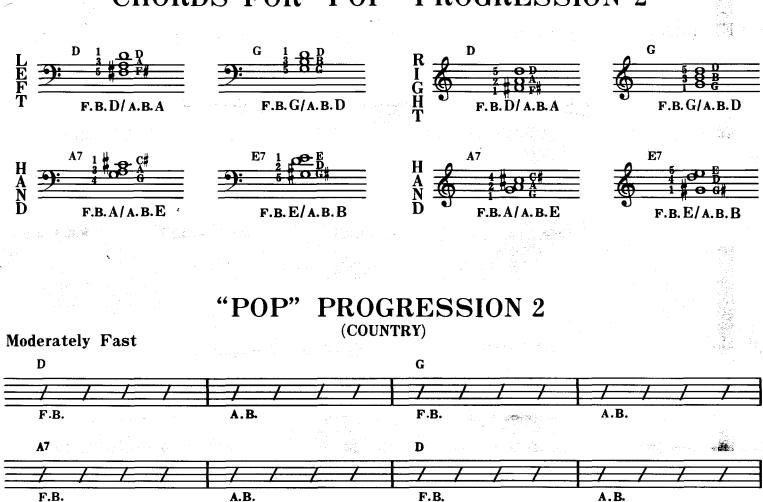
### POP" PROGRESSION 1

(FOLK BLUES)



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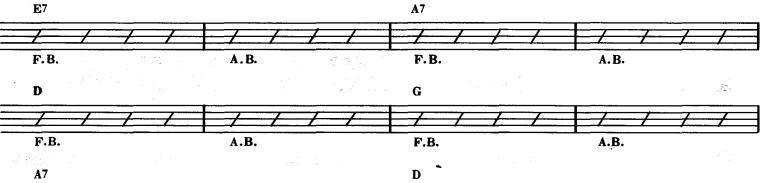
**CHORDS FOR "POP" PROGRESSION 2** 

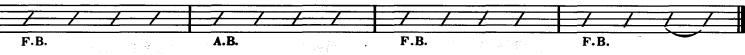


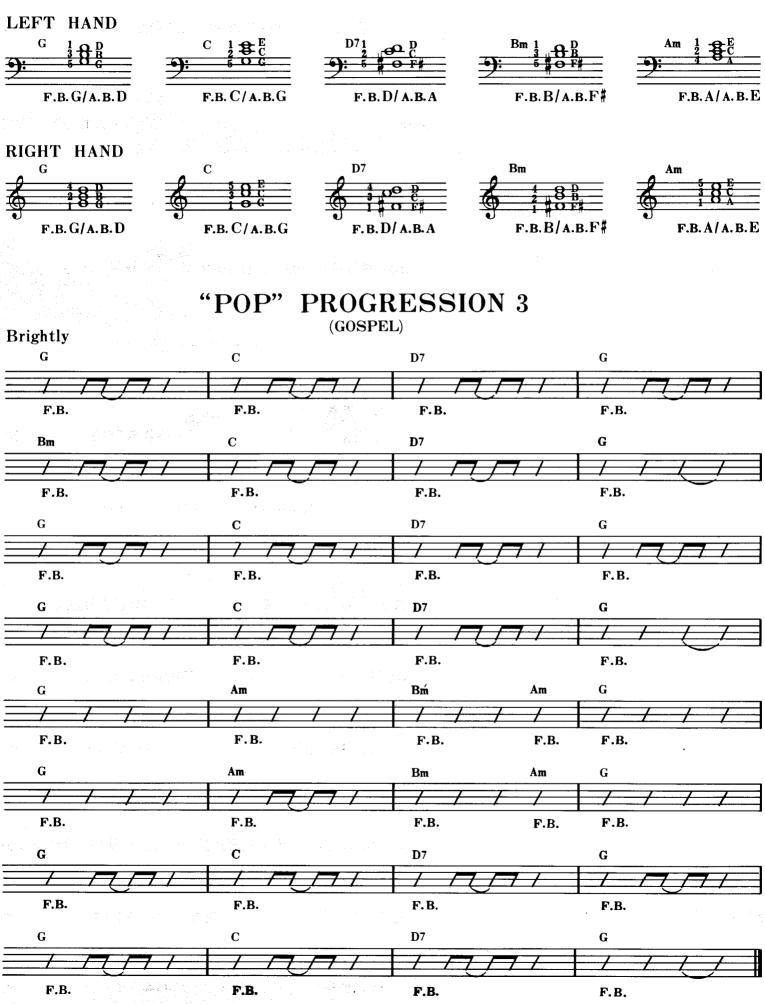


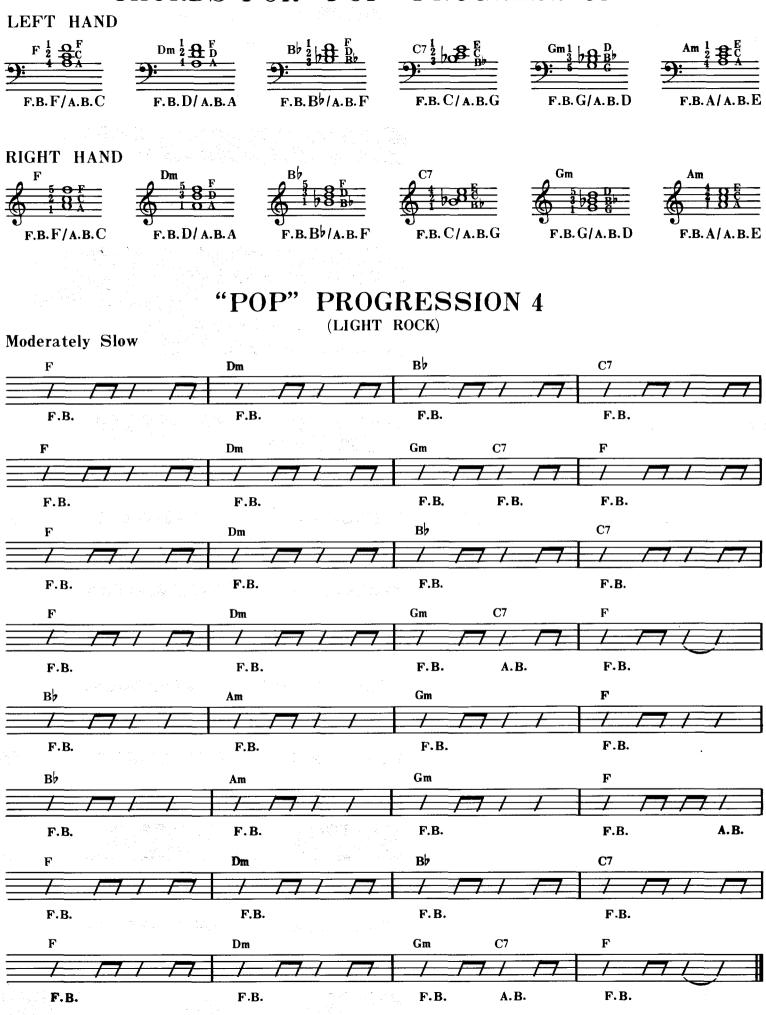
**A7** D F.B. F.B. A.B. A.B. D Ġ

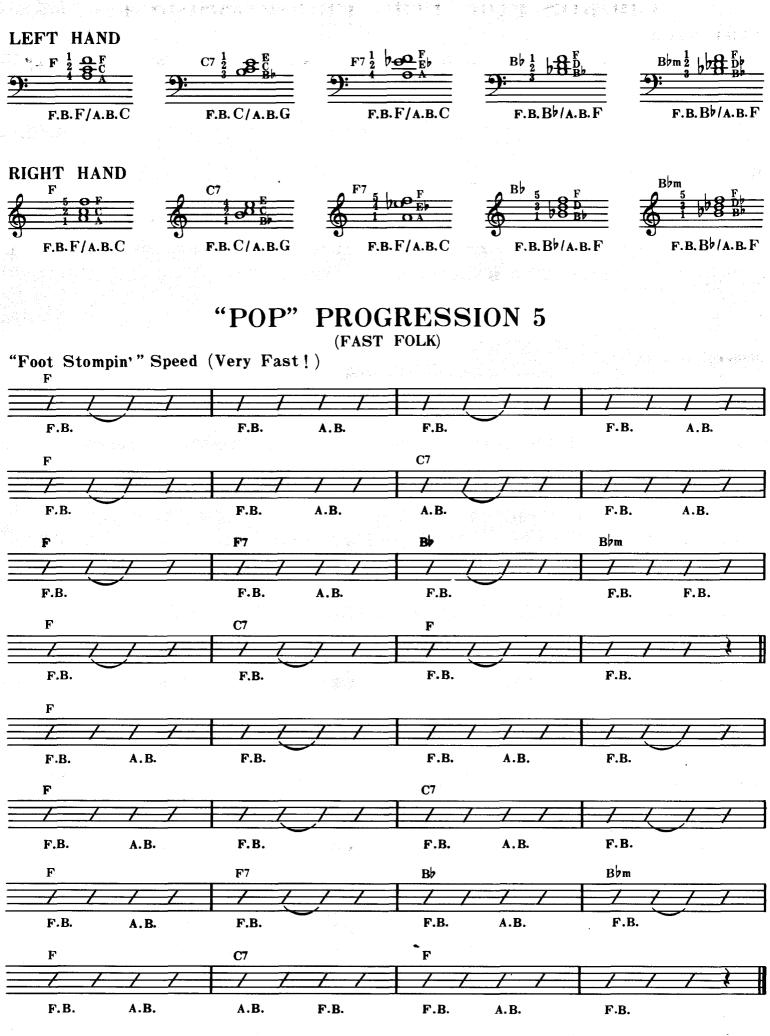


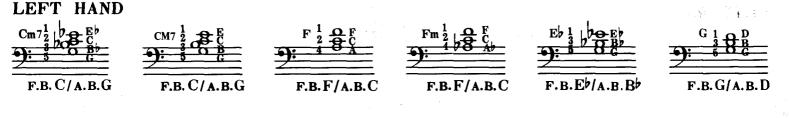














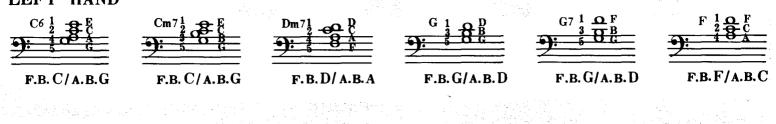


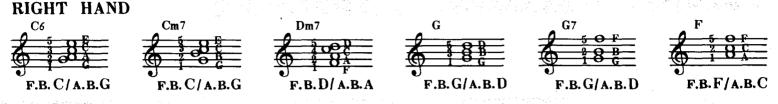




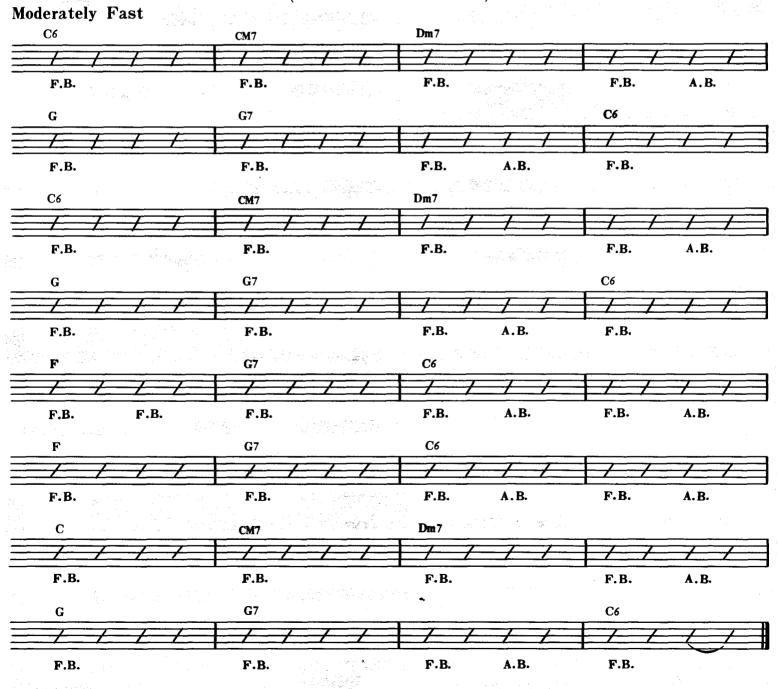
"POP" PROGRESSION 6 (SLOW "POP" BALLAD)



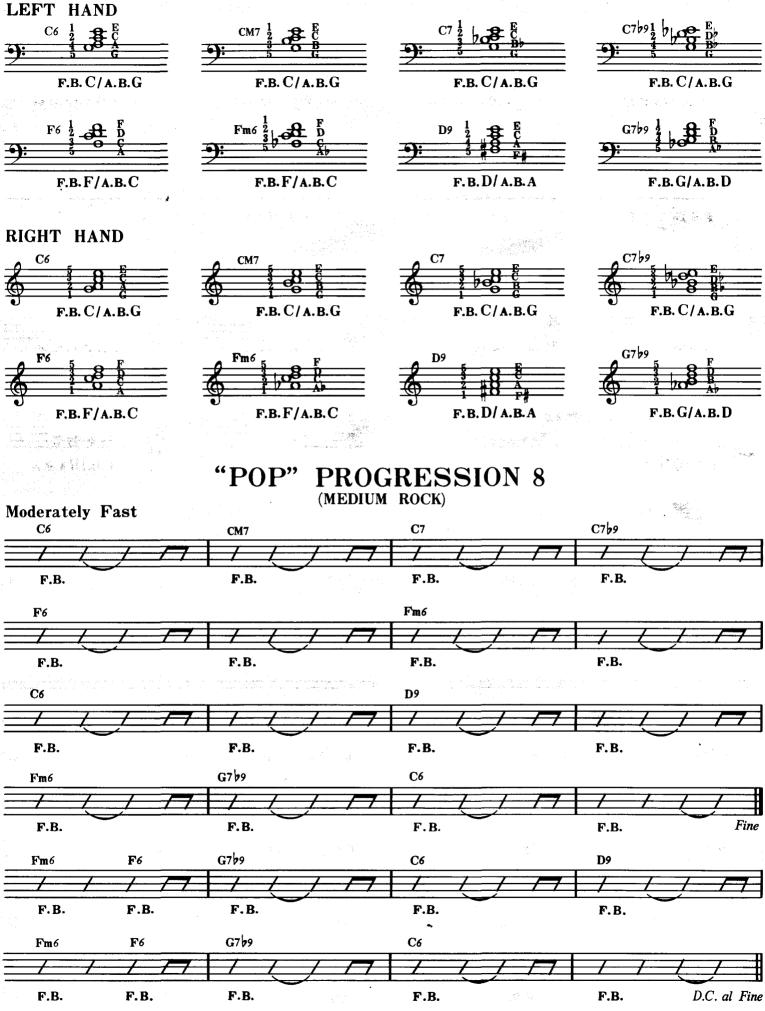


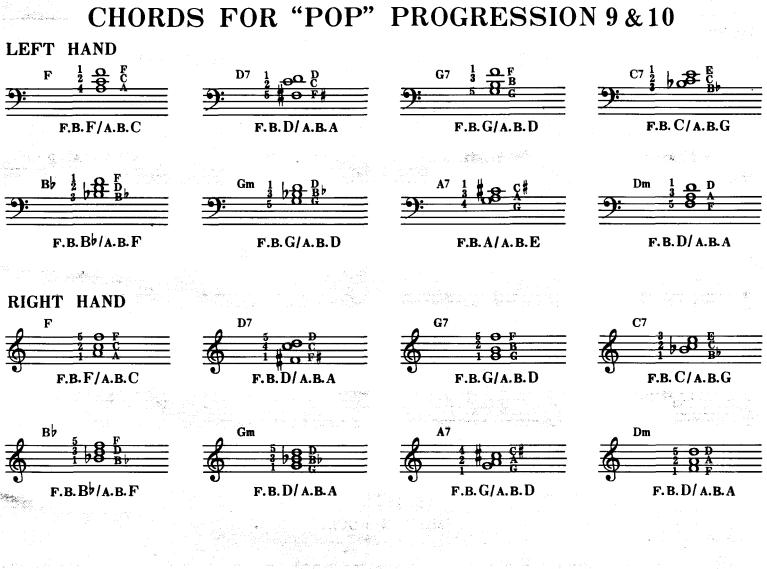


#### "POP" PROGRESSION 7 (MEDIUM "POP" BALLAD)





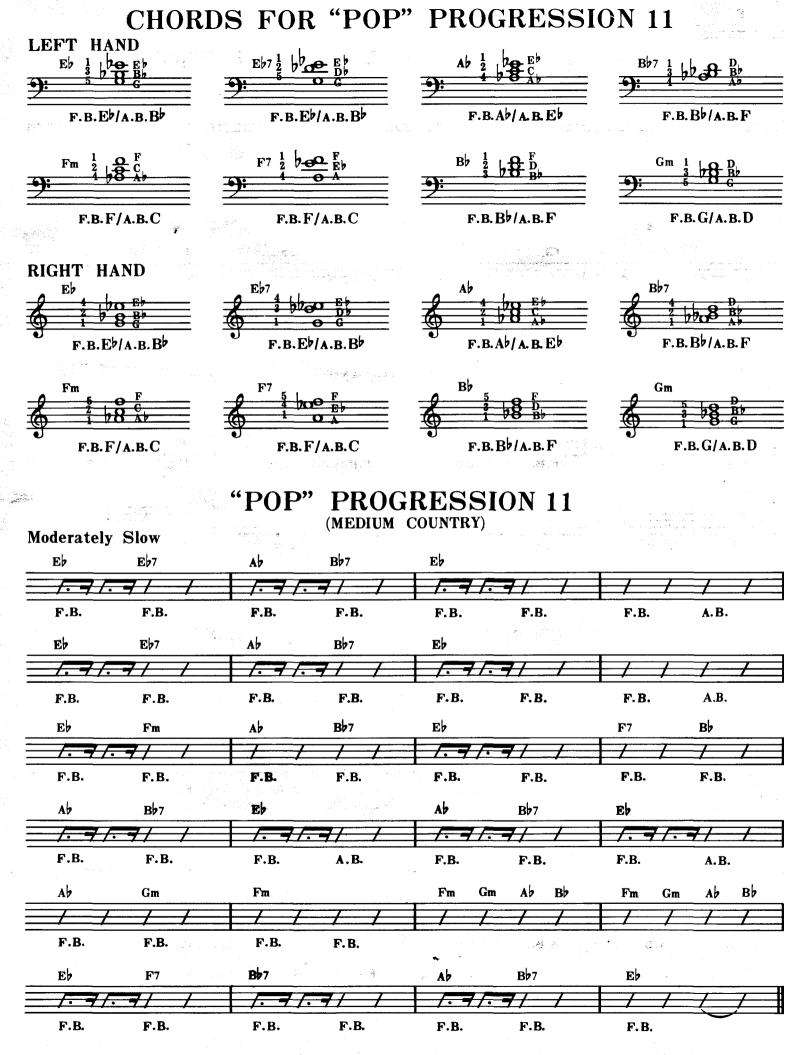


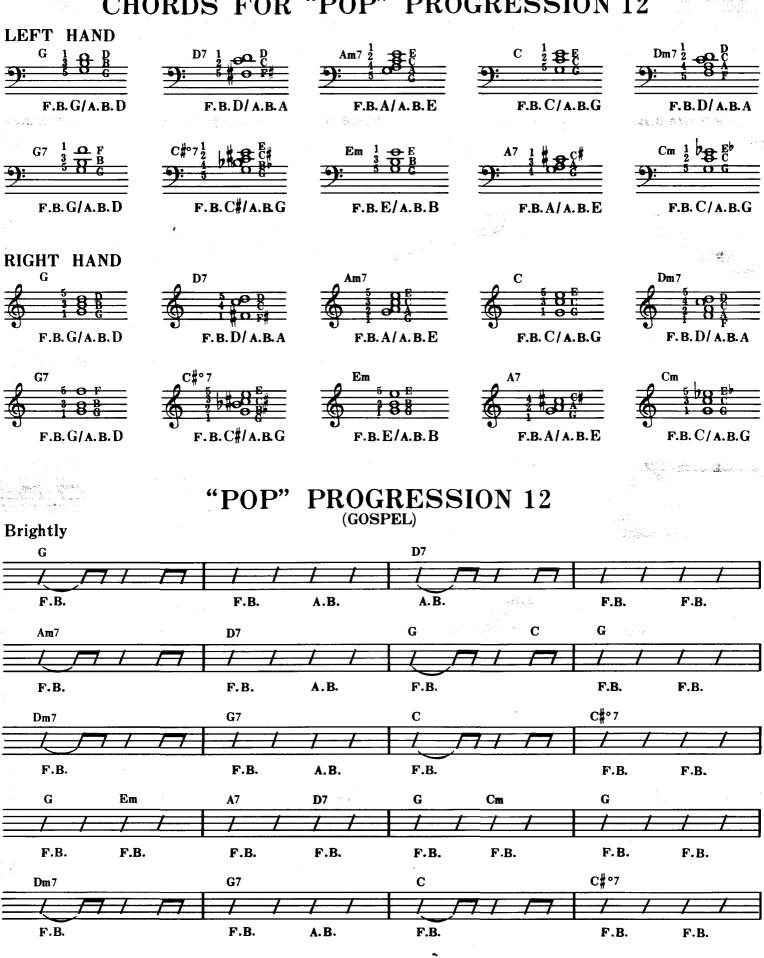


#### "POP" PROGRESSION 9 (MEDIUM DIXIELAND)

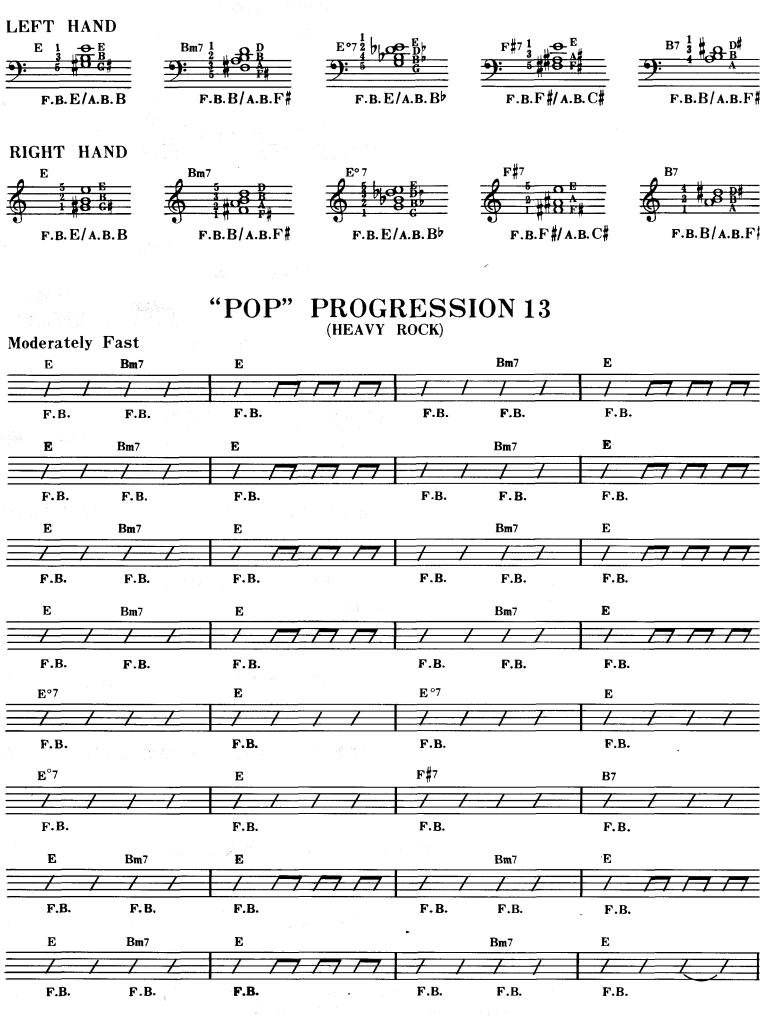
Moderately	Fast						
Gm	<b>C</b> 7	Gm	<b>C7</b>	Gm	<b>C7</b>	Gm	C7
= / _ /	-7/	/	- <i>1</i> - <i>F</i>	_/_/	/	1 1	_/_/_
<b>F.B.</b>	<b>F.B.</b>	<b>F.B.</b>	<b>F.B.</b>	F.B.	F.B.	F.B.	F.B.
F	1. × 2	<b>C7</b>		F	B.	F	•
/			11	_/_/		1-1	
<b>F.B.</b>	<b>A.B.</b>	A.B.	<b>F.B.</b>	F.B.	<b>F.B</b> .	F.B.	A.B.
Gm	C7	Gm	C7	Gm	C7	Gm	<b>C7</b>
= I = I	/		1-1	_//			
F.B.	<b>F.B.</b>	<b>F.B.</b>	<b>P.B.</b>	F.B.	F.B.	F.B.	<b>F.B.</b>
				•			
F		C7		F	Вр	F	
	-/ /		<i>11</i>	11	1-1	_/_/	11-
<b>F.B.</b>	A.B.	A.B.	F.B.	F.B.	F.B.	F.B.	A.B.

Bb  $\mathbf{F}$ F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. **A.B. G**7 **C**7 7 Ŧ 7 F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. **A**.**B**. **C7** Gm **C7** Gm **C7** Gm **C7** Gm F.B. F.B. F.B. F.B. F.B. F.B. F.B. F.B. BЪ **C7** F F  $\mathbf{F}$  $\vdash$  $\vdash$ A.B. F.B. F.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. F.B. **"POP" PROGRESSION 10** (BRIGHT DIXIELAND) **Brightly**  $\mathbf{F}$ D7 **G7** +F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. **C7**  $\mathbf{F}$ F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. **A.B.** Вþ F **D7** Gm 7 F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. **G7 C7** 7  $\overline{}$ *-*----F.B. F.B. F.B. **A.B. A.B.** F.B. A.B. A.B.  $\mathbf{F}$ **D7 G7** Ŧ 7-F.B. A.B. F.B. **A.B.** F.B. F.B. A.B. A.B. **A7** Dm A.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. F.B. A.B. F.B. A.B. A7 Dm Dm A.B. A.B. F.B. F.B. F.B. F.B. A.B. A.B. F **C7**  $\mathbf{F}$ BЪ F F.B. **A.B.** A.B. F.B. **F.B**. A.B. F.B.









LEFT HAND

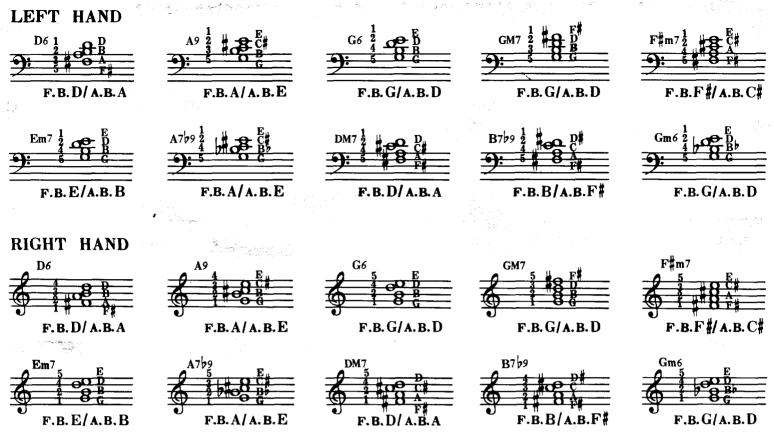


#### RIGHT HAND



# "POP" PROGRESSION 14

Moderately	Slow		,	
C6		F7b 5	C6	
/				
<b>F.B.</b>		F.B.	F.B. Market	A.B.
C6		Eþ°7	Dm 7	
	/ /			
F.B.	,, <u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u> ,,,,,,,,,,	F.B.	F.B.	A.B.
Dm7		na na sana ang ak	G7	
/	/ / ==			
F.B.		A.B.	F.B.	A.B.
Dm 7			<b>Fm</b> 7	G7
/			/ _/	
 F.B.	······	A.B.	F.B.	A.B.
C6		F7b5	C6	
/	/ /		/ / /	
F.B.		F.B.	F.B.	A.B.
C6		Eb°7	Dm7	
	1			
F.B.	4	F.B.	F.B.	А.В.
Dm7			G7	
	1 1			/ / / /
F.B.		A.B.	F.B.	A.B.
Dm7		G7	CĜ	
/	/ / _	/		
F.B.		F.B.	F.B.	F.B.



"POP" PROGRESSION 15 (MEDIUM "POP" BALLAD)

