

# Inversions - a study in the key of C major

Barbara Ann Fackler

root position, first inversion and second inversion triads

C Dm Dm/F Dm/A Em Em Em/B F F/A F/C

G G/B G/D Am Am/C Am/E Bdim B°/D B°/F C

Bdim/F B°/D B° Am Am/C Am G/D G/B G F/C F/A F

Em/B Em/G Em Dm/A Dm/F Dm C/G C/E C

Every chord can be named by its root. Chords in root position are usually stacked in thirds, and all chords may be rearranged (inverted). The chord symbols are given here so that you will be able to name each chord as well as identify the different inversions. In the first half of the etude, each group of 3 chords begins with root position, followed by first inversion, then second inversion. Once you can identify the chords and inversions here, go back and name the inversions and chords in previous exercises. Pay attention to the chords that occur naturally in each key. There's a chord chart with the lead sheet tutorials on this website that will help you learn more about chords.

The different inversions here are notated in the changes beginning in the second measure. Chords are assumed to be in root position and major unless you are told otherwise. A small "m" indicates a minor chord and "dim" or "°" tells you to play a diminished chord (2 minor thirds).