

Root Position Triads

a study in chord shapes for harpists

Be sure to place this group of three notes before playing the first note.

Barbara Ann Fackler

The root position triad is a commonly used chord shape that your eyes need to recognize and your hands need to find quickly. Place all three fingers simultaneously with no buzzing. Even in the measures where the notes will be played one at a time as quarter notes, they should be placed as a group, the same as when you play the three notes as a chord. It's important to learn to recognize the shape in both forms, as a chord and as notes played separately. The time you spend as a beginner mastering this will save you time later and is a step toward being able to sight read quickly. When you have mastered this, you can learn my arrangements of Westphalia Waltz, Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us, Ode to Joy, We Three Kings or the Sweetheart Waltz.