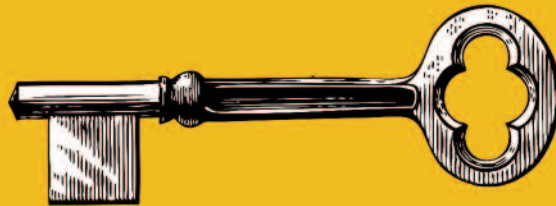


Keyed Up

PIANO

Self-Taught Piano System



Four Moves Away From Playing By Ear



by Joseph Pingel

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Please direct all inquiries regarding this book, distribution, affiliation, improvements, suggestions and anything of interest to Joseph Pingel.

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I wanted to be a rock star when I was a kid. I was good on the guitar at an early age and used guitar-chord knowledge to teach myself piano (after a couple years of lessons).

That changeover from one instrument to another drove home some music theory concepts that rocked my musical world. I made some unobvious discoveries; discoveries missed by most musicians out there. That’s what this book is about.

No matter your musical skills, you will either acknowledge and recognize the rare insights I share here or aspire to understand them better.

Common Note Transitions

A common note transition is when you select a common note between two chords and use that note as the anchor to make the change.

With repetition your hand starts to learn and memorize the reflexes of common chord changes (which become natural movements when playing by ear). Your goal is to learn what inversions of chords go together the easiest.

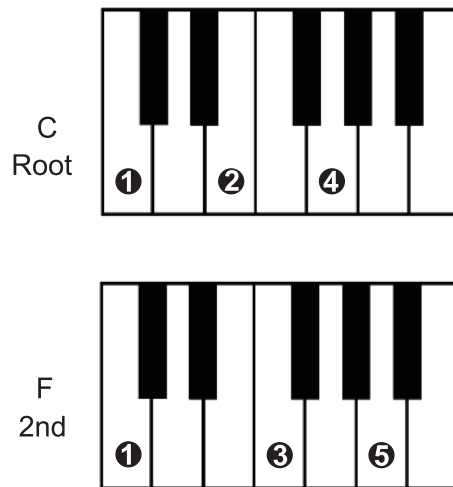
Common note transitions with all chords and keys are controlled by four basic movements:

Alternating Fingers

Here you lock your thumb in place and alternate back and forth between your 2nd / 4th and 3rd / 5th fingers. Use this to move back and forth between a root position and 2nd inversion.

Figure 1

Practice this move on a table top. Don't move your thumb. Just alternate your fingers back and forth as shown above and get a feel for this.



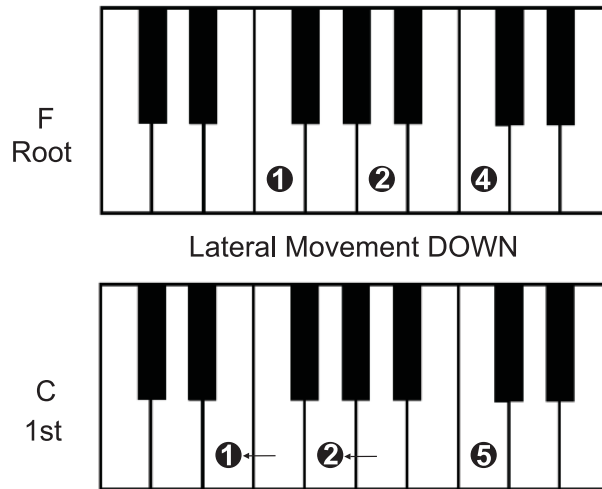
If you're wondering why not play the F chord using the 1, 2, 4 fingering instead, it's because, *at this point*, it is not a good fingering habit.

Often you will need your index finger free to add a building note to the chord. You'll have no way of doing that if your index finger is already occupied.

There will be times (in the future and at your discretion) when you will play a 2nd inversion with 1, 2, 4 fingering, however to establish a good habit, master the alternating fingers technique you must master NOW so that you don't have to unlearn a bad habit later.

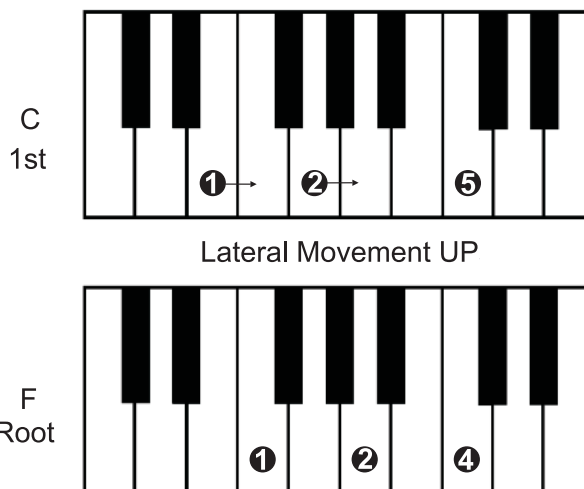
Lateral Movement Down

This is when you shift your hand slightly to the left to make a new chord. It is generally the transition fingering used between a root position and 1st inversion.



Lateral Movement Up

This is when you shift your hand slightly to the right to make a new chord. It is generally the transition fingering used between a 1st inversion and root position.



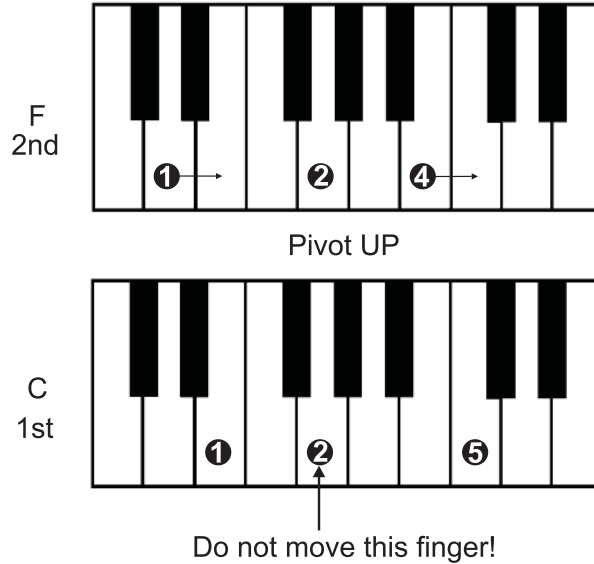
When going up or down, you shift your entire hand to the right or left, while maintaining the basic chord position. The technique is accomplished by alternate lifting and pressing of the 4th and 5th fingers.

Pivot Up

Anchor your index finger in place and use it as a pivot point to transition up between 2nd inversion and 1st inversion chords.

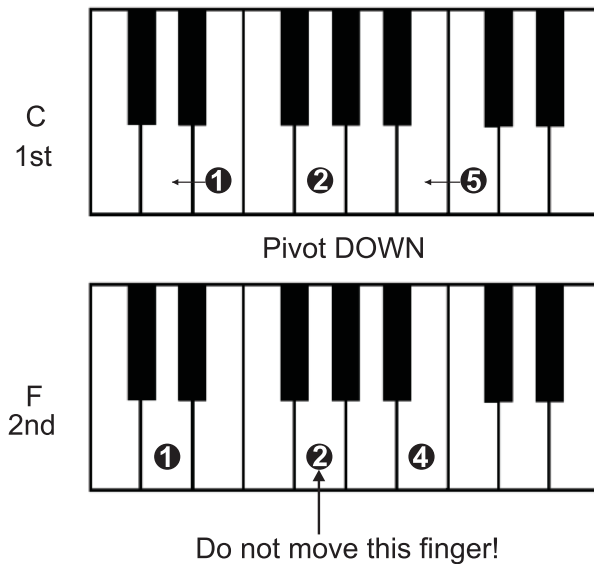
Figure 2

Just like playing basketball, don't travel. Anchor your index finger in place and use it to pivot up or down.



Pivot Down

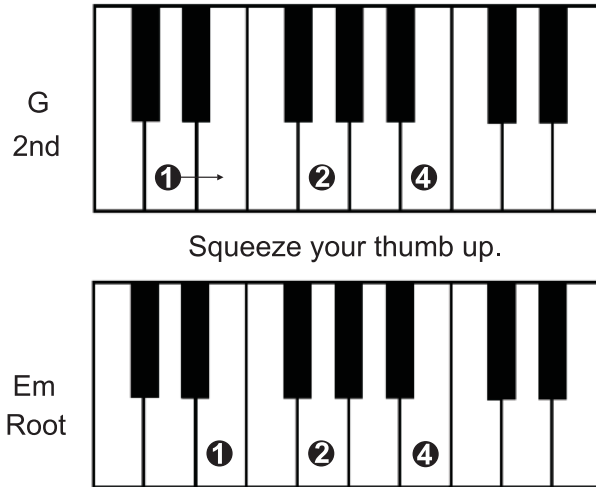
The opposite of Pivoting up, anchor your index finger in place and use it as a pivot point to transition down between 2nd inversion and 1st inversion chords.



Pivoting is subtle movement that is done by turning the wrist either slightly out or slightly in. As you pivot, the right fingers find the right place on the keyboard.

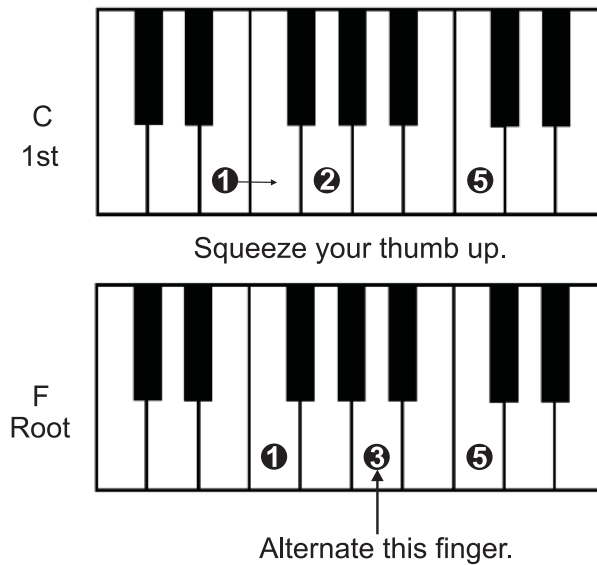
Squeeze Up

This technique is used to move from a 1st or 2nd inversion chords to a root position. There are a couple different ways to do the move depending upon from what inversion you are starting.



Squeeze Down

This is the opposite of squeezing up and is better defined as an expansion or release of the squeeze technique.



The Four Moves Exercise

Practice the moves using this exercise. Play 2 even beats of each chord, using your right hand only. Follow the movement instructions. When you get a feel for the changes, play a root note in the bass.

Musical notation for the first set of the exercise. It shows a 4/4 time signature with two staves. The right hand plays chords: C (Root), F (2nd), C (Root), and G (1st). The left hand plays root notes: C, F, C, and G. Movement instructions are: 'alt' with an arrow pointing right from F to C, 'alt' with an arrow pointing left from C to G, and 'lateral' with an arrow pointing left from C to G.

The end of this first set is a 1st inversion G chord. Stiffen your hand in the 1st inversion chord position. While maintaining that position, lift your hand and put your pinky on the upper C note. You are now playing a 1st inversion C. Begin the next set.

Musical notation for the second set of the exercise. It shows a 4/4 time signature with two staves. The right hand plays chords: C (1st), F (Root), C (1st), and G (2nd). The left hand plays root notes: C, F, C, and G. Movement instructions are: 'squeeze' with an arrow pointing right from C to F, and 'pivot' with an arrow pointing left from C to G.

The end of this second set is a 2nd inversion G chord. Stiffen your hand in the 2nd inversion position. While maintaining that position, lift your hand and place your index finger on a C note. You are now playing a 2nd inversion C. Begin the next set.

Musical notation for the third set of the exercise. It shows a 4/4 time signature with two staves. The right hand plays chords: C (2nd), F (1st), C (2nd), and G (Root). The left hand plays root notes: C, F, C, and G. Movement instructions are: 'pivot' with an arrow pointing right from C to F, 'pivot' with an arrow pointing left from C to G, and 'squeeze' with an arrow pointing left from C to G.

The end of this set is a root position G. Stiffen your hand in the root position. While maintaining that position, lift your hand and place your thumb on the C note. Repeat the entire circular exercise until you've memorized the chords and can play it evenly.