

▼ chordwand®

... the amazing chordwand® by pianowand®

... instantly unlock the secret of the piano and have fun discovering new chords to play all your favourite tunes, even without any musical knowledge!



... by simply moving the chordwand® up and down the keyboard to any root note, you can achieve every chord imaginable!

To use your chordwand® instantly for improvisation, creating new chords, composing or just to have fun, follow this simple ditty!

play all the blue ... to keep the chord true (always play the root note too!)



take it to the brink... add one or more pink



if you play a white too... drop the nearest blue



Before using the chordwand® it is useful to know these facts about a chord . . .

What is a chord? A chord is a group of notes played together at the same time. There are 3 parts that make up the structure of a chord.

Part 1 First, is the root note. The root note is the first note on which a chord is built (chosen from the musical alphabet) A B C D E F or G either with or without their sharps or flats. This is the sharp symbol (#). This is the flat symbol (b).

Part 2 Then . . . the chord type. There are six chord types; major, minor, augmented, suspended, diminished and dominant 7th. These chord types are usually built around 3 notes or more (including the root note) all played together at the same time.

Part 3 Sometimes chords can be extended and made bigger and have variations to their original sound by adding one or more notes (extensions and alterations).

Using the chordwand® to play chord symbols from songbooks

What is a chord symbol? A chord symbol is a combination of letters, numbers and symbols and is a simple way of writing a group of notes that make up a chord. Chord symbols are found above the written music in a chord songbook or lead sheet music (example shown right).



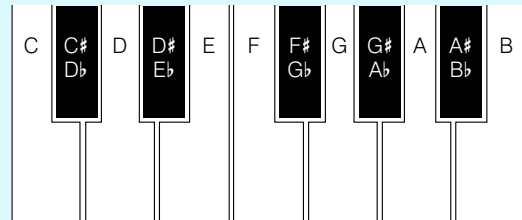
How to understand a chord symbol? For example: Let's split up the chord symbol Cm7(b5) to make it clearer to understand . . .

Cm7(b5)

Root Note

Chord symbols always start with a letter which signifies the root note.

Sometimes it will be followed by a sharp (#) or a flat (b) to show that the root note is a black note on the keyboard.



The chordwand® root marker * lines up with the root note.

Cm7(b5)

Chord Type

After the root note there will usually be an abbreviation or symbol to indicate the chord type.

Below are the six different chord types and their abbreviations and various alternative symbols.

- major** maj, M, mj, ma
- minor** (-), m, min, mi
- augmented** (+), aug
- suspended** sus
- diminished** (o), dim
- dominant 7** dom, dom7

Note: The absence of a chord type in a chord symbol means it is a major chord.




Simply rotate the chordwand® to match the chord type to the chord symbol.



Cm7(b5)

Extensions and Alterations

Sometimes extensions and alterations will follow the chord type. These will be numbers either with or without their sharps and flats.

The pink arrows on the chordwand® are the extensions and the white arrows are the alterations.

If the word '**major**' (or maj, M, mj, ma) appears after the root note and is then directly followed by the number **7, 9, 11** or **13**, always include the maj7 arrow  for example: **Dmaj9** or **Cmaj7**

If the number **7, 9, 11** or **13** directly follows the root note, then always include the 7 arrow  (**not** the maj7 !) for example: **D9(b5)** or **C7(#9)**

! if you play a white arrow then you must drop the nearest blue arrow.



Instructions - It's easy!



Place the chordwand® at the back of the keys and line up the root marker to the centre of the back section of desired root note - the chordwand® will work on whichever note you choose!



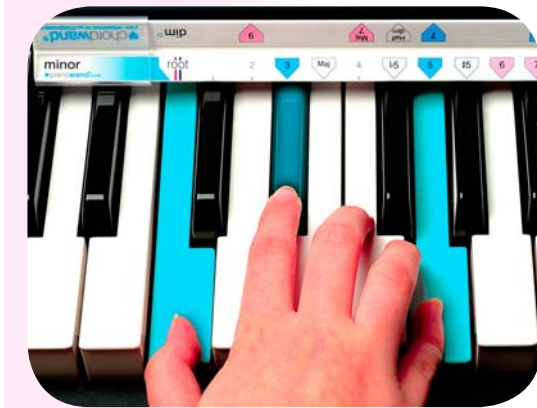
First, check which root marker line (pink or black) is intended for use with your piano/keyboard. *



Rotate the chordwand® to choose a chord type: major / minor / augmented / suspended / diminished / dominant 7th.

Most chords can be found on the major and minor sides of the chordwand®.

Visit www.pianowand.com for tutorial video, links/information & instructions on chord inversions.



Now simultaneously play the note indicated by the root marker together with the notes indicated by the blue arrows to achieve the chord (Cm chord shown).

To enhance your chord add one or more notes indicated by the pink arrows!

Lets play! Place the piano note indicator (found on the front packaging) behind the black keys of your piano/keyboard (standing upright) and position it to line up and match the black and white notes of your piano/keyboard.

Using the instructions above, try out this simple chord progression . . . **C G Am F** Many pop songs use this chord sequence in different combinations . . . **C Am F G** . . . the '4 chord trick'. Now you understand chord symbols . . . try playing chords from a songbook.

To use your chordwand® instantly for improvisation, creating new chords, composing or just to have fun, follow this simple ditty!

play all the blue . . . to keep the chord true (always play the root note too!)



take it to the brink . . . add one or more pink



if you play a white too . . . drop the nearest blue



* **root** the chordwand® has two root markers (pink and black). The pink marker line is intended for use on professional and/or weighted standard sized keyboards and pianos - the black marker line is intended for use on non-professional and/or non-weighted standard sized keyboards. (not suitable for keyboards with mini sized keys)

Instructions on how to play the 11th and 13th extensions of the chord

! The instructions below involve counting piano keys. When counting, include both black & white keys on your piano/keyboard.

11 th	On the chordwand®, find the ♭9 and then count onwards to the right, 3 piano keys (3 semitones) - this note is the 11th extension of the chord.
#11 th	On the chordwand®, find the ♭9 and then count onwards to the right, 4 piano keys (4 semitones) - this note is the #11th extension of the chord.
♭13 th	On the chordwand®, find the ♭9 and then count onwards to the right, 6 piano keys (6 semitones) - this note is the ♭13th extension of the chord.
13 th	On the chordwand®, find the ♭9 and then count onwards to the right, 7 piano keys (7 semitones) - this note is the 13th extension of the chord.

What does / or — in a chord symbol mean?

Sometimes a chord symbol can indicate a lower bass note. This can deepen the chord and give it a richer sound.

For example, a lower bass note in a chord symbol may look like this . . . **Cm7/F** or like this . . . **Cm7**
F

To play this chord symbol with the bass note (F) in it, simply play the **Cm7** with the right hand and play the note **F** with your left hand (F being the lowest note).

What does (omit) in a chord symbol mean?

Sometimes a chord symbol can omit a note. For example, it can look like this . . . **C7(omit 3)** or like this . . . **Dm7(omit 5)**

To play a chord symbol with (omit 5) in it, simply play the chord and drop (leaving out) the note indicated by the ♭5

What does (add) in a chord symbol mean?

Sometimes a chord symbol can add a note. For example, it can look like this . . . **F#7sus(add 3)** or like this . . . **B♭(add 9)**

To play a chord symbol with (add 9) in it, simply play the chord and add the note indicated by the ♭9

! When adding notes using this method (with the chordwand®) do not drop the nearest blue.



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