

## Find the Chords You need Pedal Steel Lesson

We will discuss the chords usually played in a specific key and where to find them

We will cover some music theory and some chord building rules

We will go over where these needed chords are located in relation to the well known pedals up and pedals down positions.

Once learned in one key the ideas and concepts are easily moved to a new key because the relationships stay the same

A key in music is defined by the scale. Let's use the key of C since there are no sharps or flats for simplicity. So the key of C uses the C scale. The notes in sequence are C, D, E, G, A, B, C (one octave higher). The C scale is also associated with certain chords---these chords will use the notes of the C scale and are based on the harmonized scale that is built from the major scale.

C-C major chord--C,E,G the 1st, 3rd & 5th tone of the scale. Also called the 1 chord since it's root is the first tone of the scale

D-D minor chord--D,F,A the 2nd, 4th, & 6th tones of the scale. Also called 2 minor since the root is the 2nd tone and the chord has a minor 3rd interval (3frets) between the D and F.

E-E minor chord--E,G,B the 3rd, 5th and 7th tones of the scale. Also called 3 minor since the root is the 3rd tone and the chord has a minor interval between the E and the G.

F-F major chord---F,A,C the 4th, 6th, & 1 of the scale. Also called 4 chord. If called only by the number it is assumed to be major. It has a major 3rd interval between the F and the A (4 frets)

G-G major chord--G,B,D, the 5th, 7th, and 2nd tones of the scale. Also called the 5 chord.

A-A minor chord--A,C,E the 6th, 1st, & 3rd tones of the scale. Also called the 6 minor and it has a minor 3rd interval between the A and the C

B-B diminished--B,D,F the 7th, 2nd and 4th tones of the scale.

Notice that the chords used only the notes of the major scale. The chords were all built by using the root note and then skipping a note between the other notes.

So we find that most every song we play in the key of C uses the chords built from the scale and those are the ones listed above. C, Dm, Em, F, G, Am, B dim. G7 is usually substituted for B dim as it has the Bdim notes in it.

A simple song might have only a C and a G chord. Example: Take Me Back to Tulsa. Most songs have three chords: C, F, G. Example: Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain. Many songs have the 2 chord or 2minor chord. Example: Way To Survive. More complex songs will have the 6 or 6minor and a few will have the 3 or 3 minor chord.

If we learn where these chords are found in relation to the 1 chord in both pedals up and pedals down positions we are ready to play most songs.

First we have to learn how to form and find the minor chords. Here are some rules:

-minor chord of the same name is located 3 frets above the major chord using the A pedal

-minor chord of the same name is located 1 fret above the pedals down position but with no pedals and the E's lowered.

-the minor chord formed by using the B&C pedals would be the 2m chord of what ever fret you are on. For example: 8th fret open is C; 8th fret with B&C pedals is Dm

-In the pedals down position there is a 6th chord if the 7th string is used. This is also a minor chord, the relative minor (6m) for the major chord you are playing. Example: pedals down at the 3rd fret is C but using the 7th string is C6 and Am and Am7.

We already know how to find the 1, 4 and 5 chords at the pedals up and down positions. Now we need to how to find the 2m, 3m, 6m as well as the 2, 3, 6 chords.

**Open position** ( no pedals): 3m-lower E's at the same fret. 2m-lower E's two frets lower. 6m-add A pedal at the same fret. 6-pedal A & F lever at the same fret. 3-A&B pedals one fret lower. 2-move up two frets no pedals.

**Pedals Down Position** (A & B pedals): 3m-A pedal at the same fret. 2m-A pedal 2 frets lower.  
6m-include the 7th string at the same fret. 2-B pedal and lowers E's at the same fret or two frets higher pedals down. 3-A&F at the same fret. 6-3 frets back pedals down. 6 major also found 2 frets up without pedals.

This sounds complicated but is easy once you get the idea and try it.