

Piano Chord Academy — Getting Started

Steam (Windows)

What is Piano Chord Academy?

Piano Chord Academy is an interactive music learning app that teaches you piano chords — from basic major and minor triads to complex jazz voicings — through visual lessons, practice modes, and engaging gameplay.

This is for you if:

- You want to understand the chords behind the music you love.
 - You play piano but never learned music theory systematically.
 - You want a structured, game-like progression rather than dry theory books.
 - You want to practice with a real MIDI keyboard or a connected controller.
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Your First 10 Minutes

1. Pick your level

On first launch, choose between:

- **Complete beginner** — start at Chapter 1 with zero assumed knowledge.
- **Some experience** — take a short placement test to find the right starting chapter.

2. Do your first lesson (Chapter 1: Major Triads)

The chapter opens with an **animated lesson**. Watch how the notes are placed on the keyboard, then read the short theory note. This takes about 2 minutes.

3. Take the quiz

Press the correct chord keys on the on-screen piano. If you're unsure, press **Hint** — it highlights the notes. Repeat until the quiz is complete.

4. Play the first gameplay level

Gameplay levels turn the quiz into a fast-paced challenge with scoring and stars. You can replay levels as many times as you want.

5. Move to Chapter 2 when you're ready

Chapters unlock sequentially. You can revisit earlier chapters at any time to improve your star rating.

The App Layout

| Area | What's there |

|---|---|

| **Top bar** | Current chapter, XP progress, day streak, settings |

| **Main area** | Lesson content, quiz view, or practice mode |

| **Piano keyboard** | On-screen piano — click to play notes |

| **Bottom navigation** | Learn · Practice · Game · Library |

Bottom Navigation Tabs

- **Learn** — Chapters and lessons. Your primary learning path.
- **Practice** — Freestyle, Song Practice, Ear Training, Mixed Quiz.
- **Game** — Multiplayer and single-player gameplay modes.
- **Library** — Browse all chord types. Use as a reference.

Tips for Getting the Most Out of the App

Use Ear Training early. Even in Chapter 2 or 3, starting to train your ears pays off later when chords start sounding similar.

Connect a MIDI keyboard. Playing with real keys dramatically speeds up muscle memory. Any USB class-compliant keyboard works. Click "**Connect MIDI**" below the

on-screen piano.

Don't rush past 1 star. If you got only 1 star, replay the level once before moving on. A quick second attempt locks the chord shapes into memory better than rushing forward.

Use the Library tab as a cheat sheet. When a chord looks unfamiliar in a quiz, check Library — it shows the chord structure and interval formula for every chord type.

Day streak matters. Even 5 minutes per day is more effective than a long session once a week. The daily goal indicator at the top keeps you on track.

Next Steps

- [QUICK_START_GUIDE.md](#) — Step-by-step for MIDI, controller, and multiplayer setup.
 - [MANUAL.md](#) — Full feature documentation.
 - [KEY_BINDINGS.md](#) — All keyboard shortcuts and controller buttons.
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