

## The 1-4-5 Chords

You may have heard musicians talking about 1-4-5 tunes. This means that a 1-4-5 tune has only three different chords in it: the 1-chord, the 4-chord and the 5-chord. Which letter names the chords have depends on the key you are in.

To determine the 1-4-5 chords for a tune, assign the number 1 to the chord with the same name as the key. For example, in the key of G, you assign the number 1 to the G chord. G is the 1-chord. Then count up the scale 1-2-3-4 starting with G, and you get G-A-B-C. So the 4-chord is C. Count one higher to find the 5-chord. It is D. So the 1-4-5 chords in the key of G are G-C-D.

Thousands of commonly played songs and tunes are 1-4-5 tunes. Many people play only 1-4-5 tunes and have a lifetime of fun doing it.

Below is a table that shows which chords are the 1-4-5 chords for a given key. Note that you will see very few tunes in the keys which I've grayed out.

You don't have to memorize these; they're just here for reference. You can always figure them out by counting up the scale.

Try it with some other keys and check your answers with the table.

		Chords number		
		1	4	5
Key	<b>A</b>	A	D	E
	<b>Bb</b>	Bb	Eb	F
	<b>B</b>	B	E	F#
	<b>C</b>	C	F	G
	<b>C#</b>	C#	F#	G#
	<b>D</b>	D	G	A
	Eb	Eb	Ab	B
	<b>E</b>	E	A	B
	<b>F</b>	F	Bb	C
	F#	F#	B	C#
	<b>G</b>	G	C	D
	Ab	Ab	Db	Eb