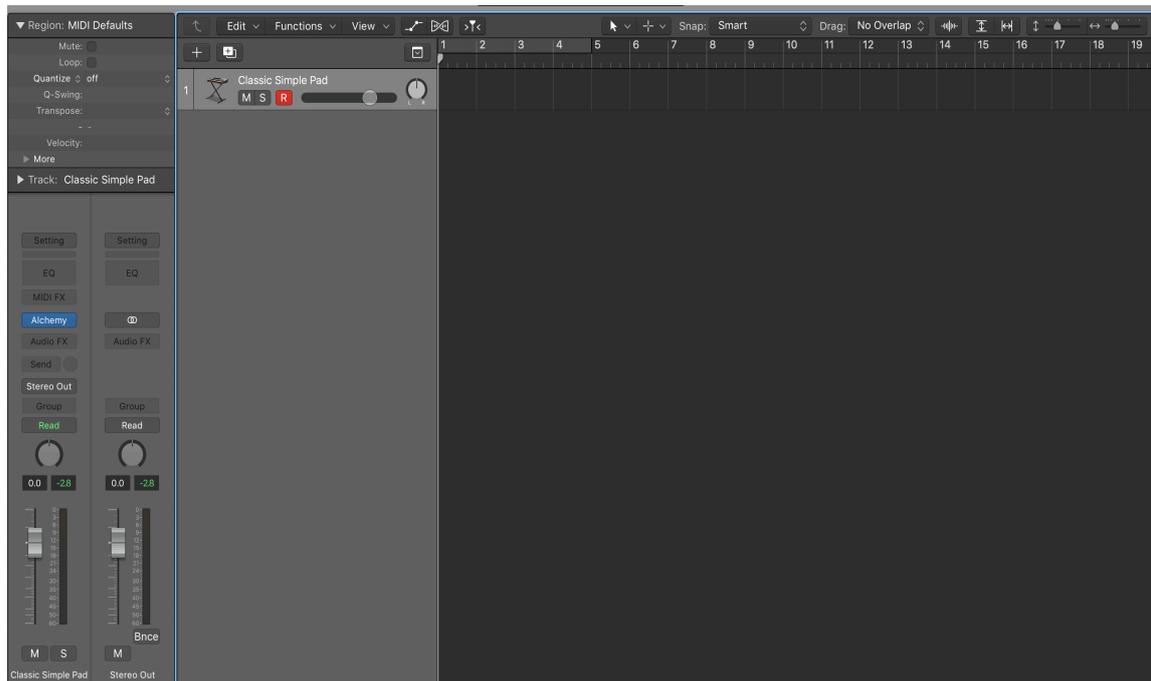


Writing a chord sequence

Walkthrough

Writing a chord sequence is tricky when it comes to keys and what chords you can and can't use, especially if you don't have that much knowledge about music theory. It's not impossible though, and this walkthrough should hopefully help you be able to write a chord sequence for your track, even if you don't understand the theory behind it.

1. To start writing a chord sequence you need to pick a decent pad or keys instrument to start with. If you're using Logic, Alchemy is a great place to start but there's loads of great pads and instruments on any DAW if you have a look around.

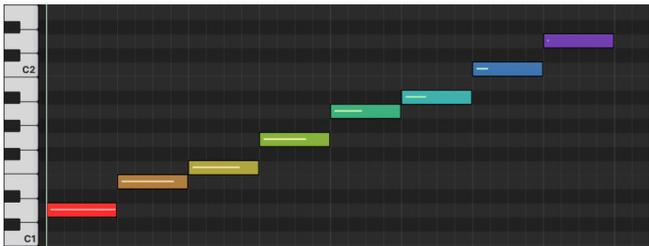


2. Next you need to choose a key to write your chord sequence in. Make sure you've got the pdf called **Chord Encyclopaedia** and pick **one** of the pages to write your chord progression in (either a major or a minor key). For our sequence I'm going to use D minor.

D MINOR

Scale (only use these notes for your bass line and melody):

D E F G A Bb C D



The scale diagram shows a piano keyboard with notes D, E, F, G, A, Bb, C, and D highlighted in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue, purple) across the keyboard. The notes are arranged in ascending order from left to right.

Chords:

D minor F major G minor A minor Bb major C major

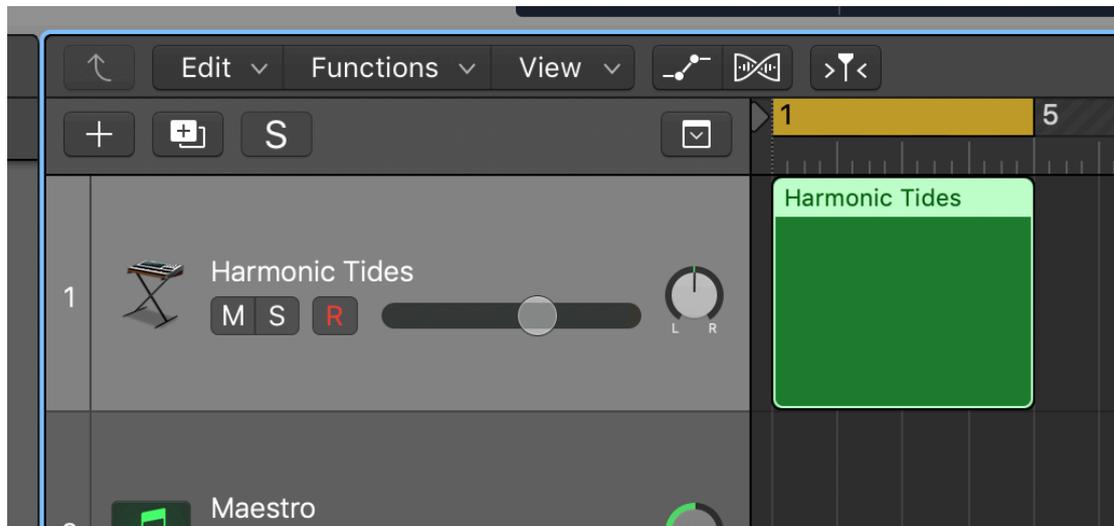


The chord diagram shows a piano keyboard with chords D minor, F major, G minor, A minor, Bb major, and C major highlighted in green and red across the keyboard. The chords are arranged in ascending order from left to right.

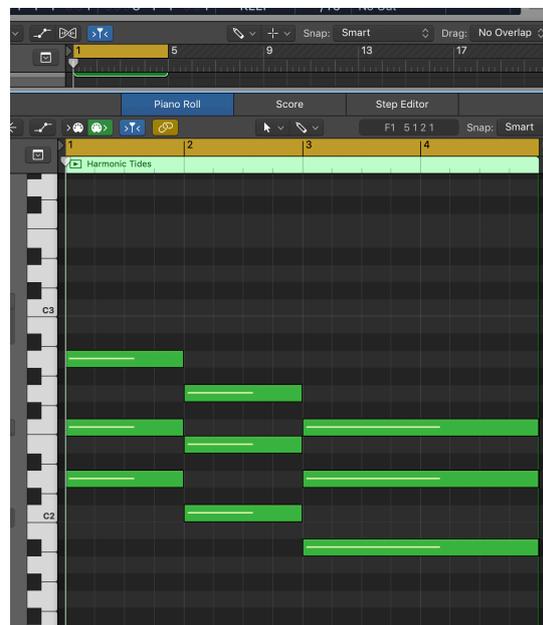
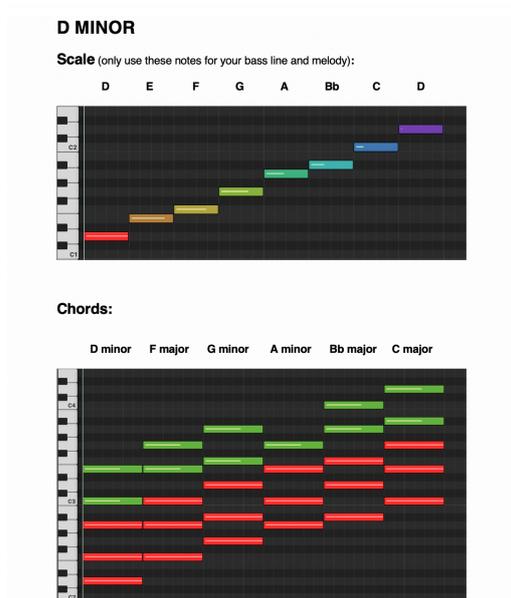
3. To write your chord sequence of 8 bars, you'll need to choose 3 or 4 chords. You're going to write these over 4 bars and then repeat them to get your 8 bar progression. The beauty of the chart is that all the chord choices have been done for you, so you don't have to worry if they fit together. Literally any combination of the chords on the page of D minor will work together. I'm going to choose a chord sequence of:

D minor, C major and Bb major

4. To program these chords into Logic, create a blank bar using the pencil tool (press esc for this). Stretch that one bar into four.



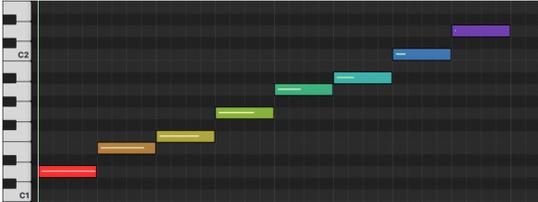
5. Go back to your Chord Encyclopaedia hand out, find the chords you need to program in and write in the **red** notes for each one on the piano roll. I've made the last chord last for two bars, not one.



6. Once you've got your basic chords written, go back to your chord chart and add some of the green notes to the top of your chord. You can add either the top green note, bottom green note or add neither, it's up to you.

D MINOR

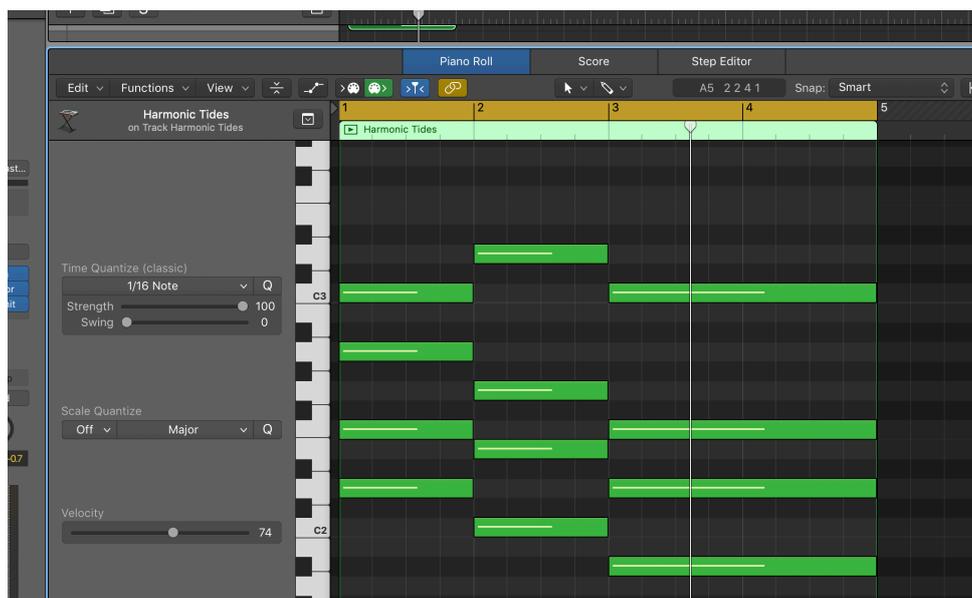
Scale (only use these notes for your bass line and melody):
D E F G A Bb C D



Chords:
D minor F major G minor A minor Bb major C major



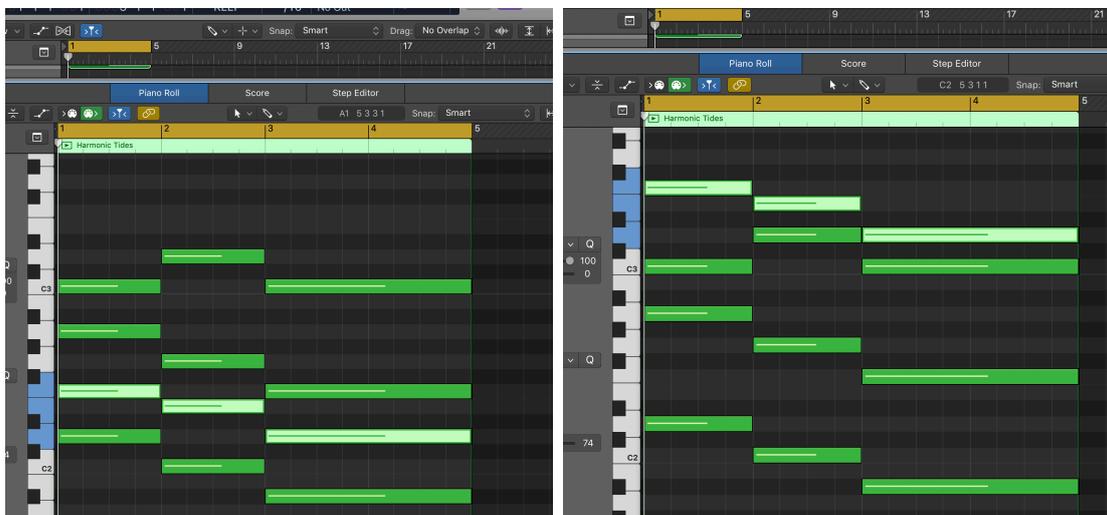
7. Your sequence should look a little like this now (I've added the bottom green note for **D minor**, the top green note for **C major**, and the top green note for **Bb major**).



8. The last stage is to slightly tweak the spacing of the chords. You want to spread the chords out a little to make them sound a little bit more interesting. The rules for this are:

- You can duplicate any of the notes already in the chord (if there's already a C in the chord, you can also add an extra C an octave above).
- You can move any of the notes up or down an octave.

I've moved the second from bottom note of each of my chords an octave up and my sequence now looks like this:



9. That's it really. When you're happy with your four bar sequence, copy it in your arrange page and now you should have an 8 bar chord sequence in a key of your choice!

