

# Chord-change practice

by Douglas McClure

The following exercises are designed to help the tenor banjoist to gain fluency in fingering common chord changes. The chords come in pairs; just alternate between them until the fingering change is natural. It is advisable to practice them in various keys.

The abbreviations "I o", "VII7 c", etc. are my "nicknames" for the different versions of each chord. The roman numeral identifies the highest note (root, third, etc.), which is essential for chord-melody playing. The letter "o" signifies an "open" chord (one in which the interval between the lowest and highest strings is about two octaves); "c" is a "close" chord (the highest string is fingered on a lower fret than the other strings); "h" is a "half-open" chord (the four notes are more or less grouped around the same frets).

These exercises are very much a work in progress. You can download the latest version at [www.dmclure.org/banjo](http://www.dmclure.org/banjo). I'd love to hear your comments; write me at [banjo@dmclure.org](mailto:banjo@dmclure.org) or visit my banjo blog at [www.trumpettobanjo.com](http://www.trumpettobanjo.com).

# Major triad to dominant 7th of the same root (for example, C to C7)

Starting with the ROOT as the first melody note (these examples start with E $\flat$  major chords):

I o	I7 o	I c	I7 c	I o	VII7 h	I c	VII7 c		

Starting with the THIRD as the first melody note (these examples start with B major chords):

III o	III7 h	III h	III7 h						

Starting with the FIFTH as the first melody note (these examples start with A $\flat$  major chords):

V o	V7 o	V h	V7 h	V o	VII7 h	V c	VII7 h		

# Major triad to dominant 7th a fifth higher (for example, C to G7)

Starting with the ROOT as the first melody note (these examples start with E $\flat$  major chords):

I o	III7 h	I c	III7 h	I o	V7 o	I c	V7 h		

Starting with the THIRD as the first melody note (these examples start with B major chords):

III o	VII7 h	III h	VII7 h	III hh	VII7 h	III o	V7 o	III h	V7 h

Starting with the FIFTH as the first melody note (these examples start with A $\flat$  major chords):

V o	I7 o	V c	I7 c	V o	VII7 h				