

Naming Chords

We can name chords using:

1. A Roman Numeral (I, II, IV or V) to tell us which degree of the scale the chord is built from
2. A Letter (a,b or c) to show the position (which note of the chord is the lowest note)

To do this, it is helpful to draw a table that shows the chords.

5th	c	G	A		C	D
3rd	b	E	F		A	B
Root	a	C	D	E	F	G
		I	II	III	IV	V

Piano

Ia IIa Va Ia

Here is the same passage, but some of the chords are in different positions

Piano

Ia IIa Va Ic

- a = Root position The root of the chord is the lowest note
- b = First inversion The third of the chord is the lowest note
- c = Second inversion The fifth of the chord is the lowest note