



Guide to using Soundprism on iPad

By Farhad Ahmed

Soundprism Introduction (part1)

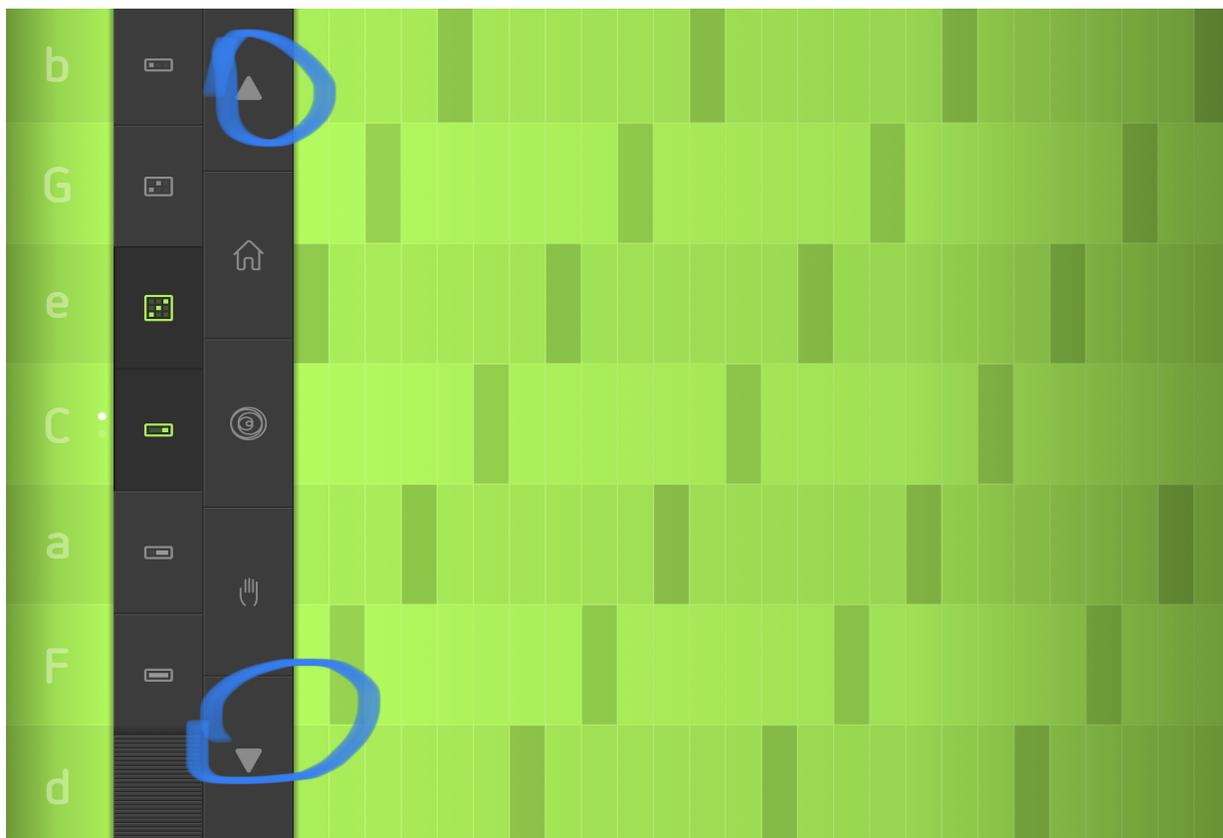
Aims:

- Pick a key
- Play the Chords section, changing chords and playing different octaves
- Play the Bass section
- Hold button (sustain)

Soundprism is a music application that helps the player generate chords and is available for free at the app store.

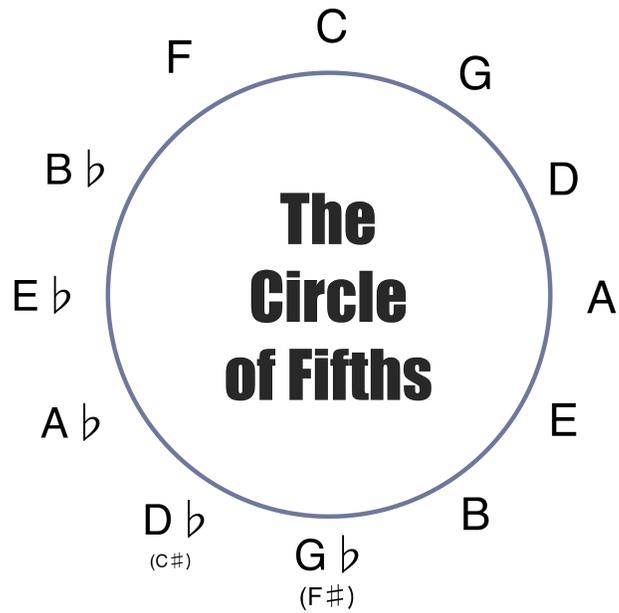
Let's start by picking a key!

You can choose the key by pressing these arrows.



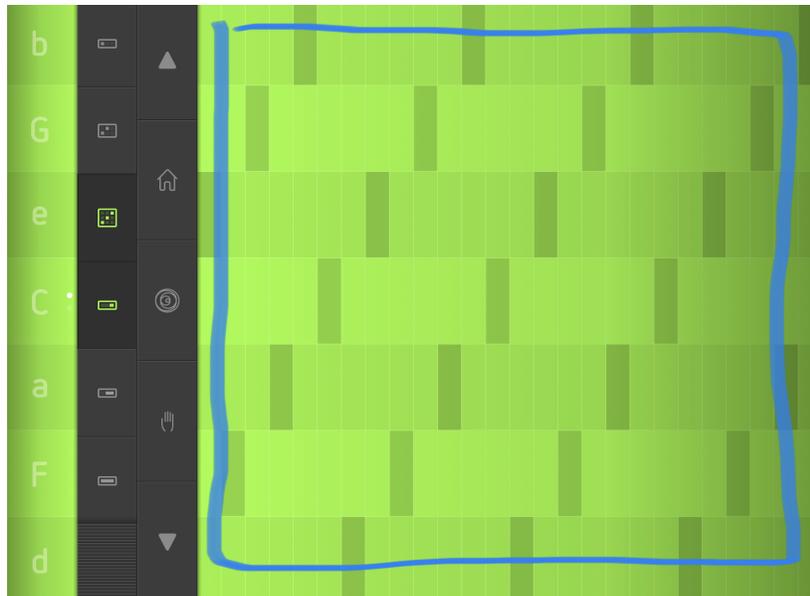
Music theory tip

These allow you to change keys via the circle of fifths.

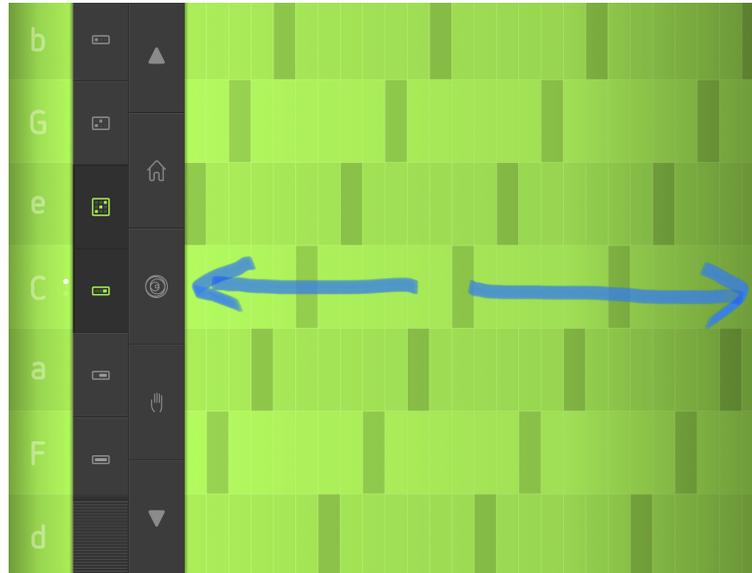


Chord Section

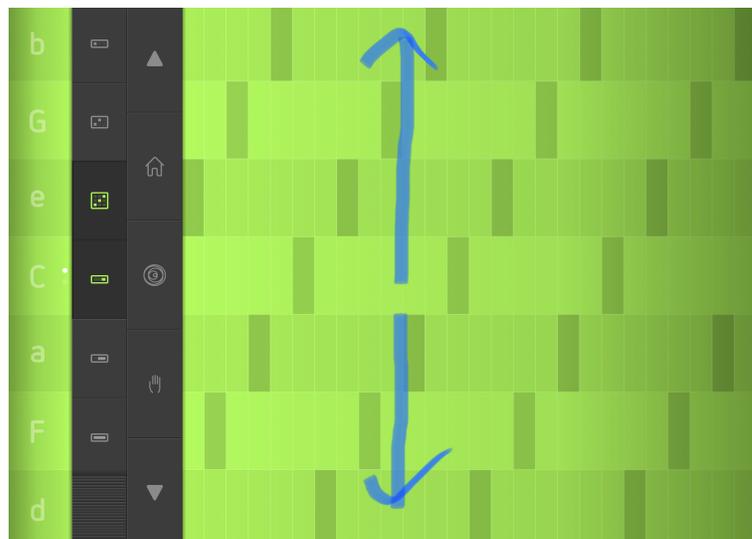
To the right of the panel is the chord section



To play higher and lower versions of the same chord (playing in different octaves) swipe left and right horizontally

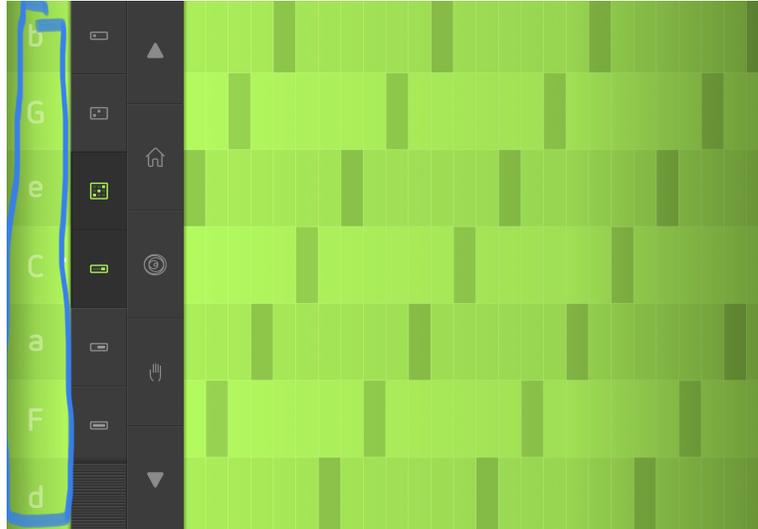


To change chords, play the chord section vertically.



Bass section

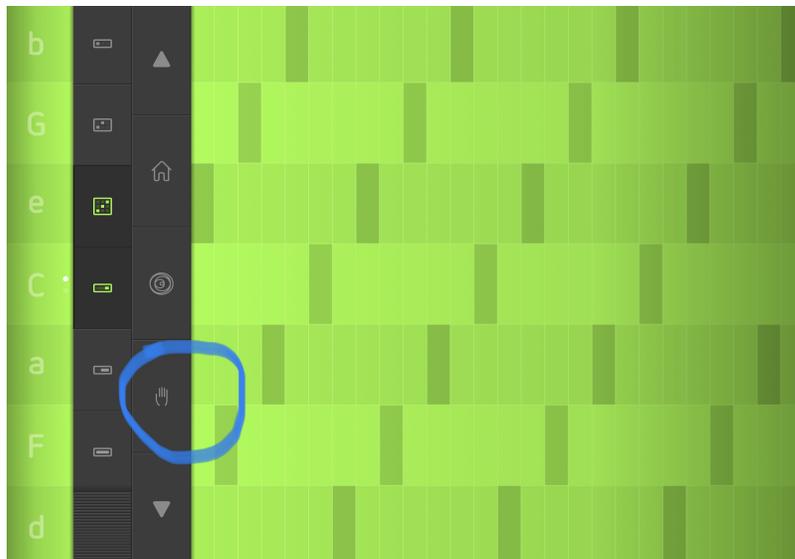
To the left of the panel is the bass section.



To play bass notes with your chords, swipe this section vertically.

Hold button

This button allows you to hold and sustain a chord, this may be useful for people with different levels of mobility



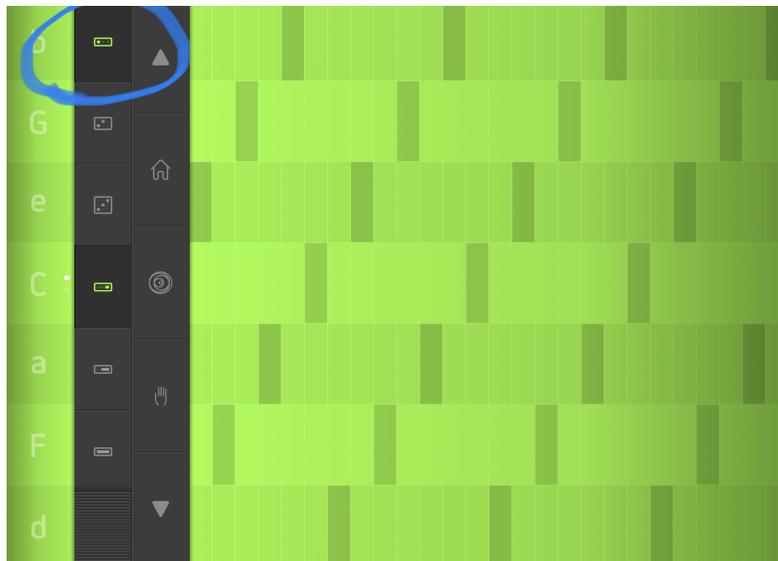
Soundprism: More Basic Features (part2)

Aims:

- Single note melodies
- Double note button
- Triple note button
- Adding octaves to your chords
- Changing your sound

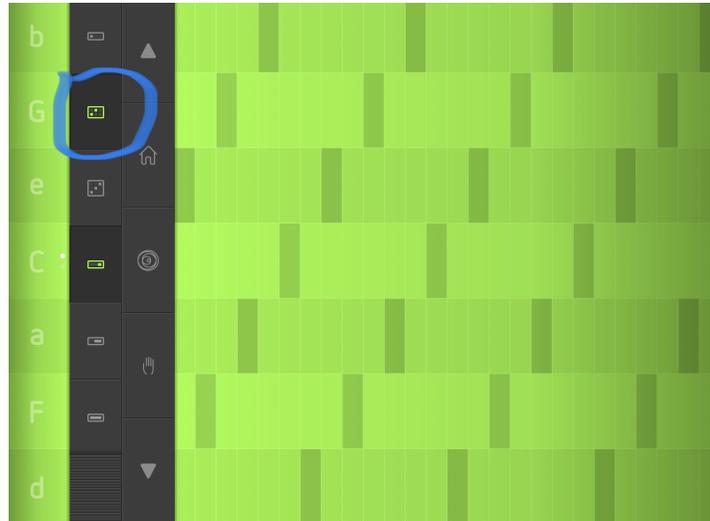
Single note buttons

With these two single note buttons selected we are able to play a single note at a time. Tap to play some single notes on the chord section.



Double note button

With the double note button selected this will make your notes sound more dense.

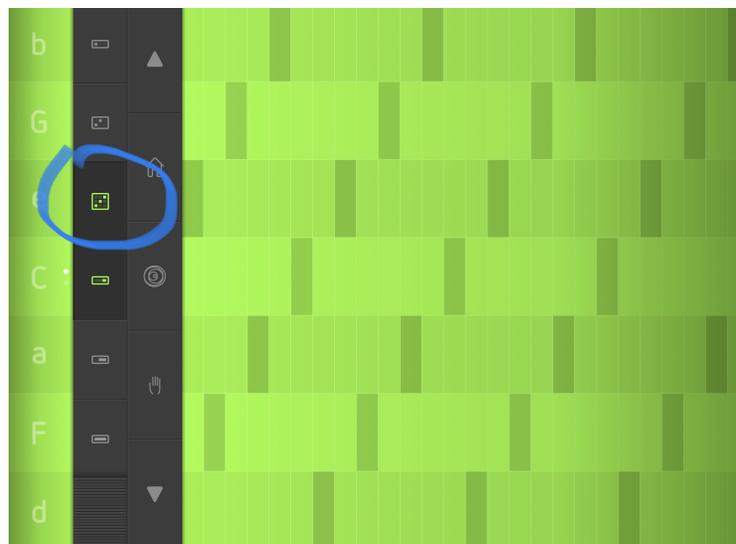


Music theory tip

By tapping the double note button you are able to make melodies using thirds.

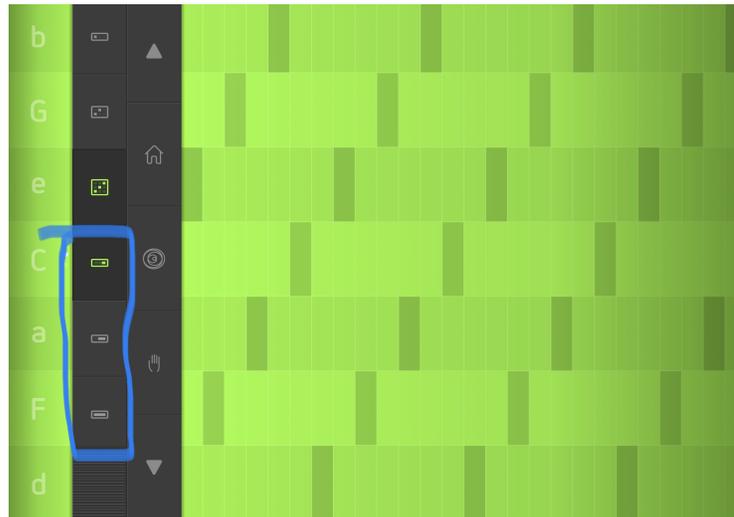
Triple note button

The triple note button allows you to play a full chord triad.



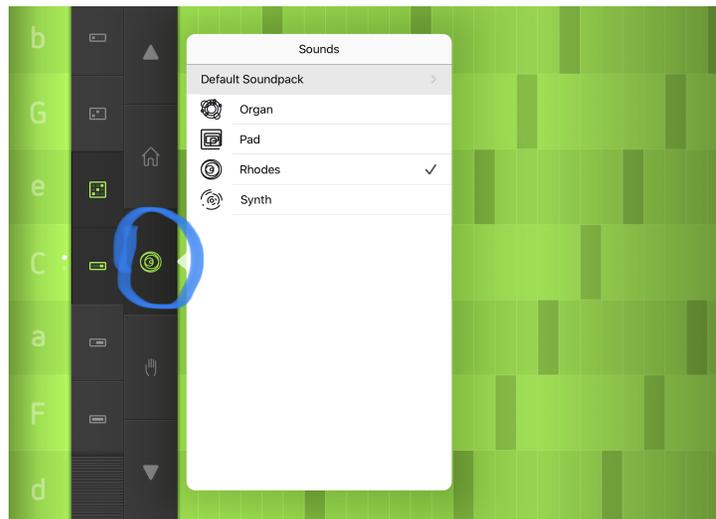
Add Octaves

These three buttons will allow you to play chords across octaves. From top to bottom these are single octave, double octave and three octaves. Adding more octaves will have the effect of a keys player using a fuller breath of their keyboard.



Changing your Sound

Soundprism allows you to change your sound with the button shown below.



There is a default sound pack that comes with the free version of Soundprism. Explore these sounds to see which one suits you! There is an option from the button just above this to download more sounds including more free sounds.

Soundprism: Major and Minor Chords and making Melodies (part3)

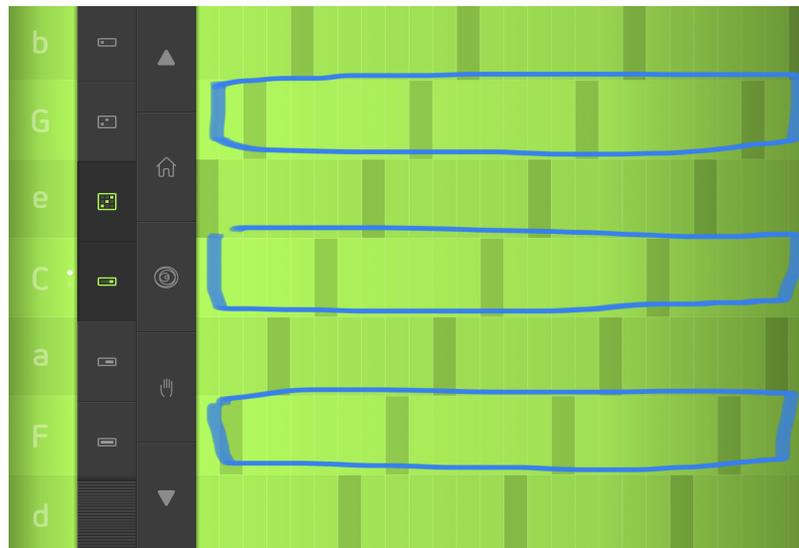
Aims:

- To choose between major and minor chords
- Use a combination of hand movements to create melodies

Major and Minor Chords

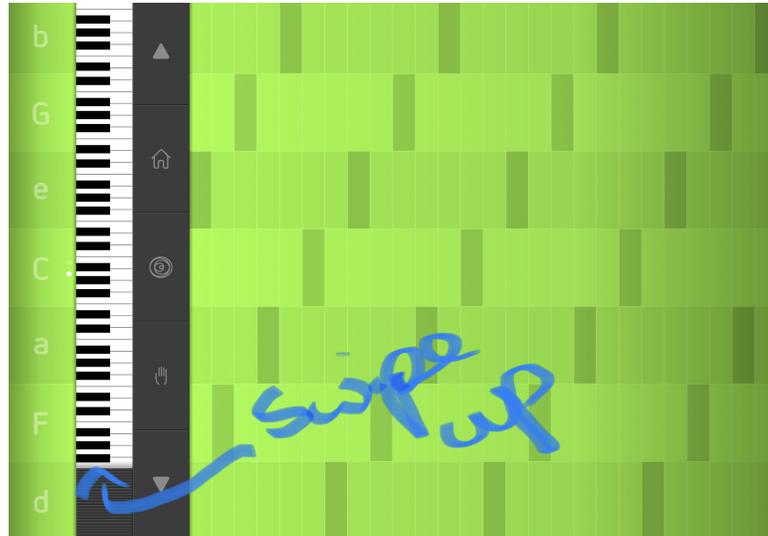
Soundprism shows us the difference between major and minor chords. On the horizontal strips of the chord section, the lighter strips belong to major chords, these chords sound brighter! The slightly darker strips belong to minor chords.

(in this picture we've highlighted the lighter major chords, the rest are minor)



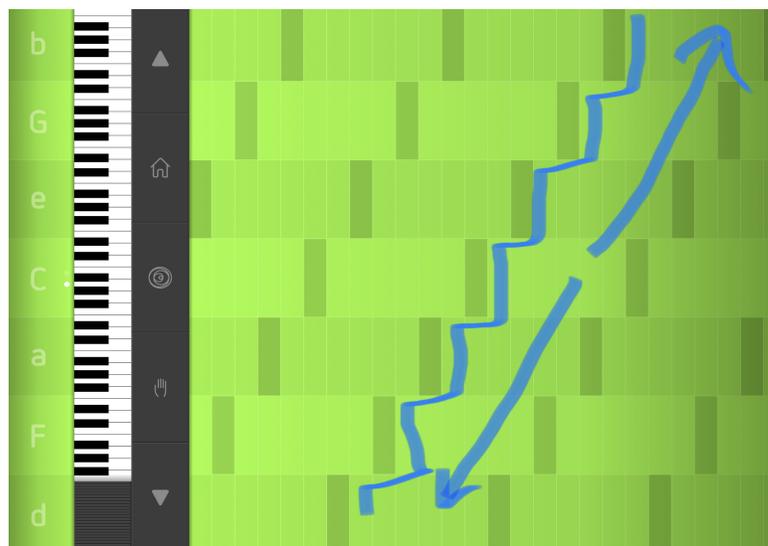
Create melodies.

The Soundprism interface might look confusing at first. Let's swipe the left side of the panel to get the keyboard view to help us make sense of this.



It is helpful to think of the darker rectangles ascending diagonally across your screen as steps on a ladder that will help you go up and down a scale.

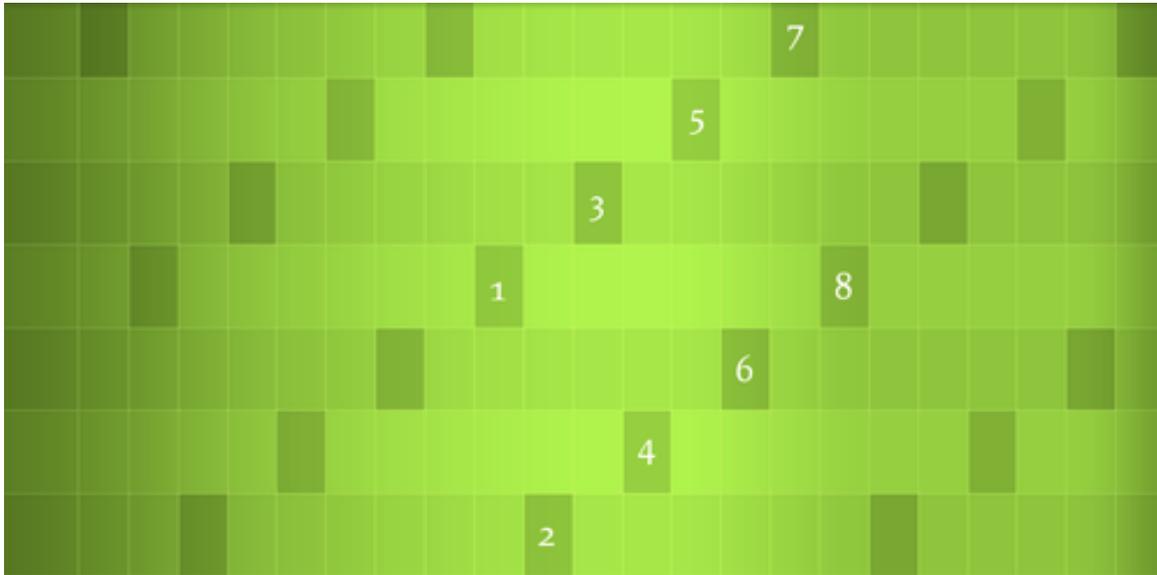
Try swiping up and down this ladder to see if you can create a melody.



Music theory tip

By swiping up and down this way you are creating a melody using thirds (every third note of the scale)

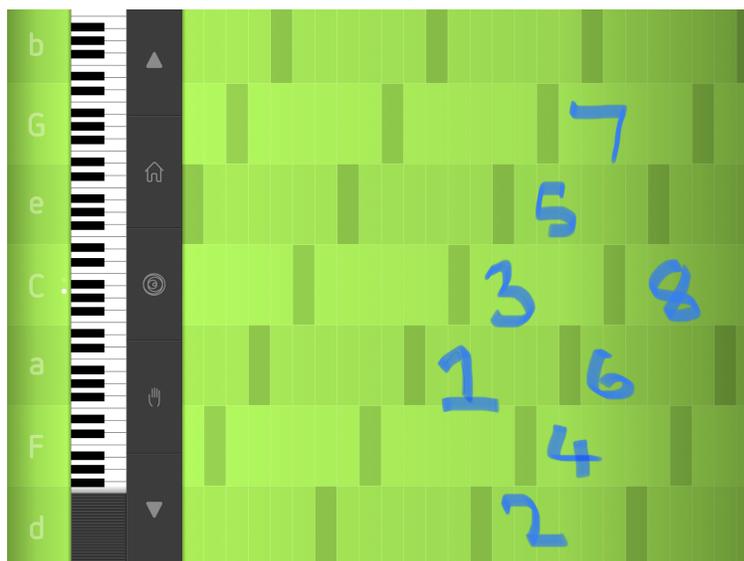
To play the **major scale** on Soundprism it's a little bit more tricky. The picture below illustrates how to play a major scale moving one note at a time. Follow the numbers! Use two fingers, or two hands, whatever feels comfortable!



This next pattern is very slightly different. Give it a try!

Music Theory tip!

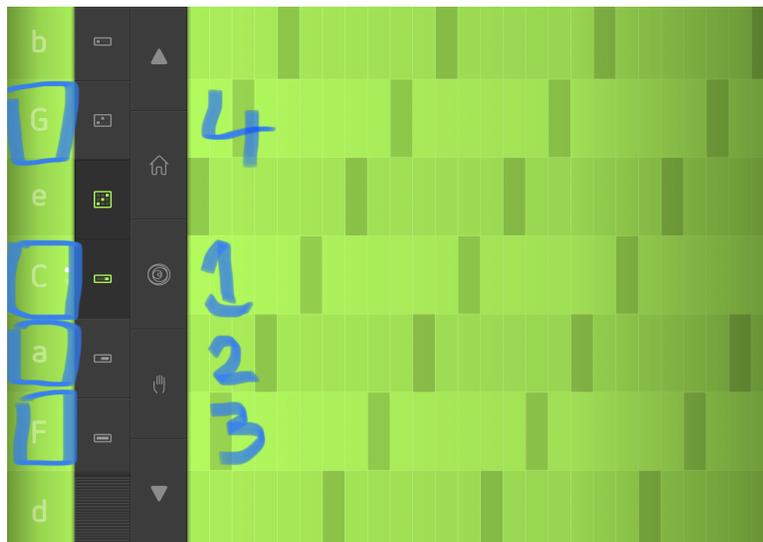
This will mean you are creating a melody using fourths!



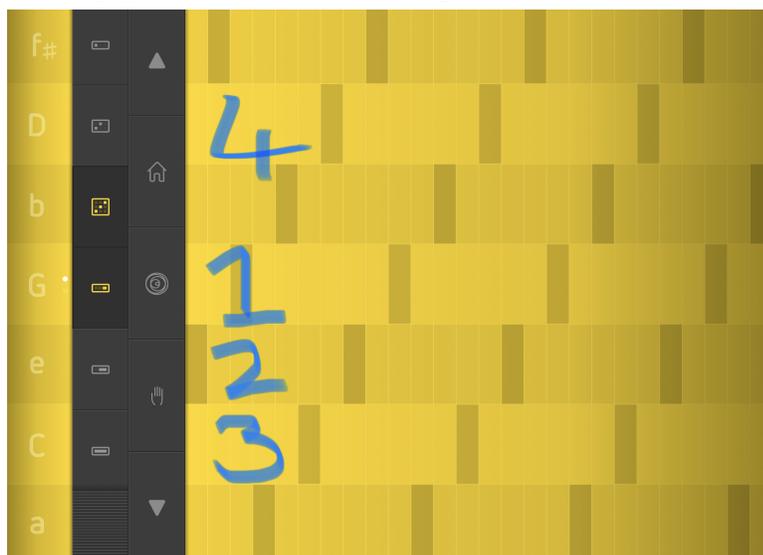
Soundprism: Get playing with Chord Progressions! (part4)

Aim: To get creative with pop music's most famous chord progression!

Let's get going and play some chord progressions with Soundprism! Using what we have learnt in the previous sections let's try a famous chord progression: C, Am, F and G. Follow the numbers in this picture.



These chords are a great place to start from as there are hundreds of pop songs that use these chords. If you start to recognise a few songs that you want to sing but you do not like the key, remember you can always change the key (see part 1). If you do change the key, the same movements on Soundprism create the same progression



Get creative!

Try these chords in different orders and/or try playing the chords tapping in different rhythms.

Soundprism: Complex Chords - Suspended Chords and Jazzy Chords (7ths and 6ths) (part5)

Aims:

- Play suspended chords
- Play jazzy chords (6ths and 7ths chords)

Suspended chords

We can achieve suspended chords in Soundprism. In the chords section, with the single note button selected, let's start with A, skip the next note and play E and skip the next note and play B. You are now playing a suspended chord! Move this hand position around and see what you come up with! Below I've used one hand, but you could use two. Play in whatever way you feel comfortable.



Jazzy chords (6ths and 7ths)

For the 6th chord let's start with the triple note button selected and press C with your middle finger. You are playing C major, to make it a sixth chord add your index finger to the note underneath.



To play the 7th chord use the same technique, except play C with your index finger and use your middle finger on the note above.

