



GOSPEL UNIVERSITY™

ONLINE GOSPEL MUSIC ACADEMY

CREATE CRAZY GOSPEL CHORDS

CHORD STACK SYSTEM

****REFERENCE SHEET****

Chord Stack System Explained

The Chord Stack System is a way of organizing all chords and their available tensions into categories.

These categories are the different styles of gospel music, which listed in order of complexity are:

- **Traditional**
- **Worship**
- **Churchy**
- **Early Contemporary**
- **Modern Contemporary**

Here's how the chords (and chord inversions) we discussed in Phase 2 are divided into these gospel music styles:

Chord Stack Categories - Type of Chords & Tensions

1. **Traditional** - Major triads, Minor triads, Augmented Triads, Minor 6th chords, Dominant 7th chords (No tensions)
2. **Worship/CCM** - Major triads (add2), Minor triad (add2)
3. **Churchy** - Minor 7th, dominant b9, 9 & #9 chords, diminished chords, & diatonic chords
4. **Early Contemporary** - Major 7th (9, 13), minor 7 (9,11), Dom7sus4 (9,13) chords
5. **Late Contemporary** - All chords with tensions possibilities, *Refer to Adding Tensions worksheet in Phase 2

Notes:

Remember that as you progress through each Chord Stack category it includes the chords from the previous Chord Stack category.

Example:

#3. Churchy Chord Stacks includes chords from #1. Traditional & #2. Worship.CCM & #3 Churchy Chord Stacks

Chord Stack Combos (CSC's)

You can combine different chord stack categories when your playing a song!

This is called creating a Chord Stack combo.

CSC's are awesome because they make you create awesome new progressions, approaches and reharms to use in the songs that you play.

Example:

You can play churchy chord stacks in a song, and then play a chord from the #4. Modern Contemporary Chord Stack Category and switch back to #3. Churchy Chord Stacks.