

Contents

Preface **vii**

How to use this book **ix**

Introduction

Chords and what they can do **11**

1. The basis of music 13
2. Taking a song apart 13
3. Familiarity with certain fundamental chords
 and playing by ear 13
4. Personal experience 14
5. Summary 15

Lesson 1

Basic chords **17**

1. Major chords 19
2. Minor chords 22
3. Diminished chords 22
4. Augmented chords 23
5. Summary 24
6. Exercises 26

Lesson 2

The remaining chords **29**

1. The sixth chord 31
2. The major seventh chord 33
3. The seventh chord 34
4. The ninth chord 37
5. Remaining chords 38
6. Summary 39

Contents

Lesson 3

Inversions; the three chord tricks; transposing 41

1. Inversions 43
2. The three chord trick 45
3. Transposing 46
4. Summary 47

Lesson 4

12 bar blues 49

1. Introduction 51
2. What is a 12 bar blues? 51
3. Exercises 54
4. Summary 57

Lesson 5

Playing by chords: from music 59

1. Introduction 61
2. The method 62
3. Practical illustrations 62
4. Summary 68

Lesson 6

Playing chords: by ear; jazz 69

1. Introduction 71
2. A review of common chords 71
3. Chord progressions 72
4. Playing by ear 75
5. Jazz or improvising 78
6. Summary 81

Appendices 83

- I Basic revision course 85
- II Chord symbol chart 91
- III Transposing chart 93
- IV Chord examples 95

Index 107