



Lesson Nineteen

Gigajam Keyboard School Lesson 019 IKS IPC

Introducing Power Chords

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce *Power Chords*.
- Develop the ability to play power chords in a style used by the rock guitar.
- Incorporate the use of power chords with many of the rhythms and notes values studied throughout our grade 2 studies.
- Develop greater coordination between our hands.

Introducing Power Chords and their role in Rock music

Power Chords feature prominently in Rock music. They are usually played on the electric guitar, where they are known as 5 chords. This is because there are only two notes in a power chord, the Root and the 5th. For example, A5 would consist of A (Root) and E (5th).

As a keyboard player it is important to be able to fit in with the other instruments and match what they are playing.

This course has so far studied playing Triads – 3 note chords. This lesson will concentrate on adapting this knowledge and ability to Power Chords.

Less is More

Playing a Power Chord means leaving out the middle note of the Triad, the 3rd. This is easy enough to play in the Bass Clef with the Left Hand. The hand shape is simple and comfortable, requiring only two digits of the Left Hand – 4th finger and thumb.

Note:

You may find that because of the gaps between certain chords that using the 3rd finger and thumb is more comfortable than using the 4th finger. Experiment a little to see which feels more comfortable.

Exercise 1 lesson019.iksipc.01



Changing Power Chords

Practise playing the following exercise which changes chord every bar. Keep the Left Hand in the same hand shape and move it around for each new Power Chord.

Exercise 2
lesson019.iksipc.02



Changing more frequently

Now do this again, this time changing every two beats.

Loop and repeat this exercise until you are completely comfortable with it. Make sure you know exactly what is involved, including the names of all the notes played.

Remember to use the correct fingering for Power Chords.

Exercise 3
lesson019.iksipc.03



Not Major or Minor

Because a Power Chord does not contain a 3rd it is neither Major nor Minor. As its name suggests, the main purpose of a Power Chord is to provide a powerful support base for the music.

Both Hands

The next exercise is a good example of this – Power Chords in the Left Hand with a repeated figure in the Right Hand.

Exercise 4 lesson019.iksipc.04



Developing your Power Chord playing

Now do this again, this time playing Left Hand Power Chords starting on Bb, and with a repeated figure in the Right Hand.

Exercise 5 lesson019.iksipc.05



Quarter Notes

Exercise 6 features Power Chords played in Quarter Notes, again starting on Bb. The Right Hand figure is still the same.

Exercise 6 lesson019.iksipc.06



Developing our use of dotted notes with power chords

The last two exercises in this lesson features dotted notes. Firstly, in exercise 7 the left hand plays Power Chords in a dotted quarter note rhythm. Count out the rhythm first – 1 (2) and 3 4. The chord changes on beat 3.

Exercise 7 lesson019.iksipc.07



Finally, exercise 8 is essentially the same, except that the chord change now takes place on the end of beat 2. Check this carefully and count out the rhythm first. Make sure you know exactly what's involved. Pay close attention to the media files.

Exercise 8 lesson019.iksipc.08



Practise makes perfect-Revise!

Now go back and repeat all of these exercises again to make perfectly sure that you can play each one correctly.

The next lesson will require you to perform some of this information in a band piece – make sure you're ready!