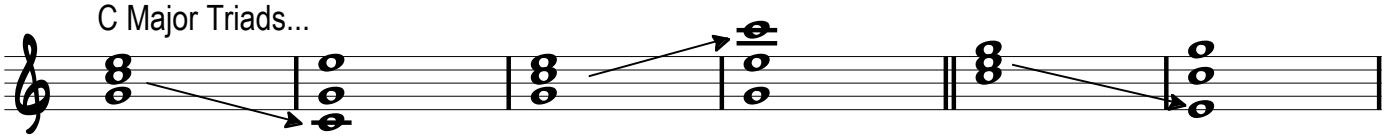
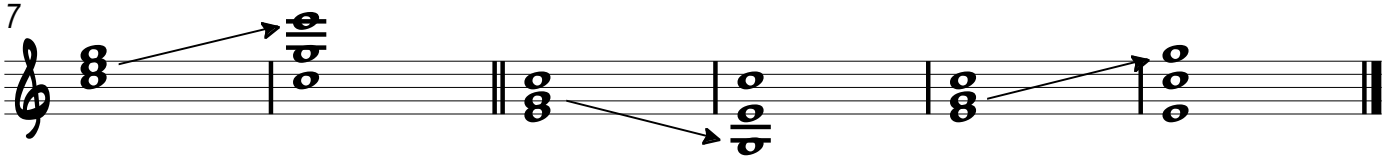
Spread Voicings

Julien Kasper

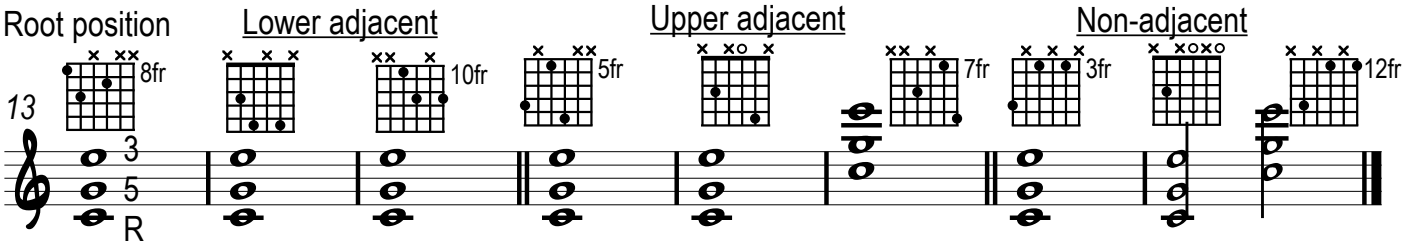
C Major Triads...

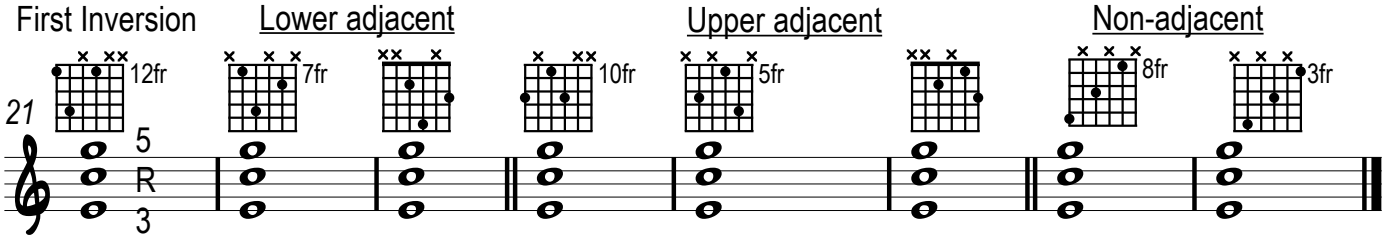


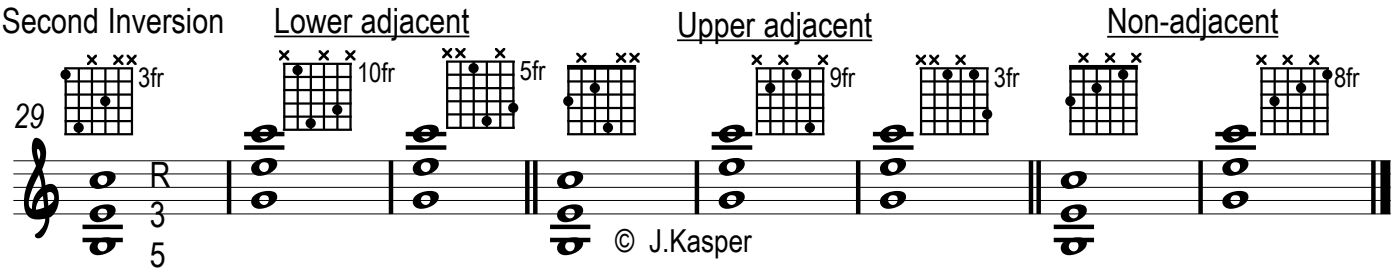
Spread or "open" voicings are created by dropping or raising the middle voice of a close voiced triad by an octave. When the middle voice is dropped the triad changes inversion to reflect the new lowest note. If the middle voice is raised the inversion remains the same.



There are three practical fingering types for spread voicings: lower adjacent - two lower pitches are on adjacent strings; upper adjacent - two upper pitches are on adjacent strings; non-adjacent - pitches skip strings. This applies to all inversions on each possible string group. After practicing all inversions on the same string group start mixing and matching possibilities, moving through the different fingering types and string groups. As with all new fretboard material it is most important to rapidly internalize the intervalic structure of these voicings so you can manipulate them. Convert all fingering types and all inversions on each string group to minor, diminished, and augmented. Manipulation of intervals is the most effective means of understanding and utilizing the material. Practice the triads harmonically and melodically.







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