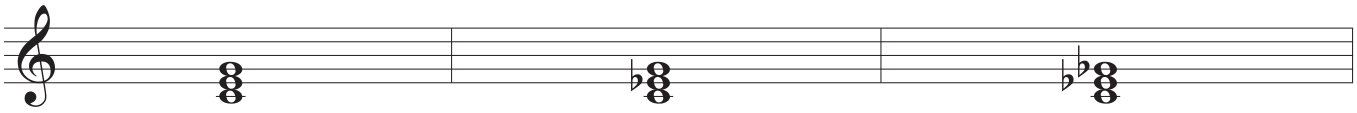
Inversions

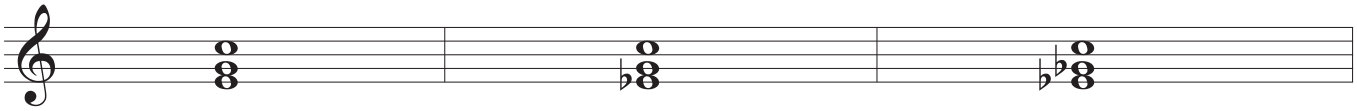
Inversions are another way to play triads.
You play the same three notes of a triad, but you stack them in a different order.

So far we have practiced triads in root position.
This means that the root of the triad (C in a C Major triad) is at the bottom.

1 Root Position

major minor diminished

A triad in 1st inversion shifts so the lowest note in the stack is the 3rd
(E or Eb in this example - it's normally the middle note of a root position triad).
The root (C) moves to the top of the triad.

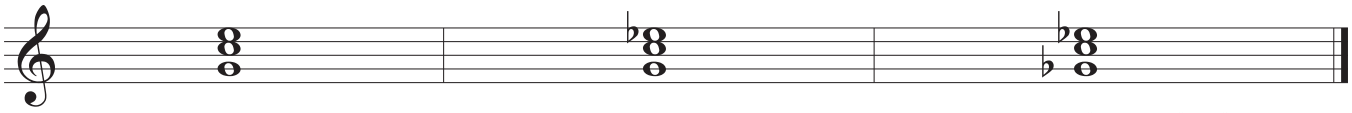
2 1st Inversion



major minor diminished

A triad in 2nd inversion shifts so the lowest note in the stack is the 5th
(G or Gb in this example - normally the top note of a root position triad).
The root (C) is in the middle and the third (E or Eb) moves to the top.

3 2nd Inversion



major minor diminished

Practice Assignment: Play through the major, minor and diminished chord inversions
at the piano, starting on the following roots:

C G D A E B | F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb