

# 1-4-5 Closed Chord Finger Positions – Sharon Gilchrist

In this class, we learned a closed position (meaning no open strings used) fingering pattern called the "L-shape".

The L-shape is three notes that are the roots of the I chord, IV chord and the V chord.

We learned a second pattern that is an arpeggio. The arpeggio pattern gives us the notes that comprise a chord.

In this case they are the notes inside the I chord, the IV chord and the V chord.

Within the arpeggio pattern, we find two double stops.

One of double stops I call the "short double stop" made of the the Root and the Lower Fifth of the chord.

The 2nd double stop I call the "long double stop" and it contains the 3rd and Higher 5th of the chord.

We also learned that most melodies will strongly feature the arpeggio tones of the chord the melody is being played over at that time in the chord progression. In other words, if you are on a D chord, the melody will like feature the notes of a D chord - D, F# or A -somewhere in the melody at that time and usually on strong beats in those measures.

We can harmonize the melody with the double stops. We must be mindful to keep the contour of the melody line when using double stops by sometimes singling out notes that could at other times be played as a double stops. This will be explained in the attached recording.

I'LL FLY AWAY - D - 4/4

D D D D  
G G D D  
D D D D  
D A D D

OR written according to I, IV, V chords:

I I I I  
IV IV I I  
I I I I  
I V I I

- the verse and chorus share the same chord progression