

FAKE STRIDE



& The Entertainer

FAKE STRIDE

part 1 - 'real' stride

I'm sure you've seen a seasoned pianist playing stride piano. His or her left hand going smoothly from a low bass note up to a chord back down to a note up to a chord and so on. Looks easy but is actually very difficult.

The process for a 'real' stride is as follows

The ROOT note of the chord is played on beat ONE

The CHORD is played on beat TWO - higher up the keyboard

The 5th (below the ROOT) is played on beat THREE

The CHORD is played again on beat FOUR

Let's see how it might work with the **chord of C** - first find the notes

The diagram illustrates the 'real' stride pattern for the C chord. It consists of two parts: a piano keyboard diagram and a musical staff.

Keyboard Diagram: A simplified piano keyboard is shown with black keys. Red text labels 'LEFT HAND' appear above the keyboard. Blue circles represent notes: one on the 5th line (labeled '5th'), one on the 3rd line (labeled 'ROOT'), and a triad on the 4th, 5th, and 6th lines (labeled 'C CHORD Middle Inversion'). A red line connects the 5th and the C chord triad.

Musical Staff: A bass clef staff in 4/4 time shows the sequence of notes and chords. Red text labels 'C Middle Inversion' and 'C' are placed above the staff. The sequence is: C (ROOT), C Middle Inversion (CHORD), G (5th), C Middle Inversion (CHORD), C (ROOT), C Middle Inversion (CHORD), G (5th), C Middle Inversion (CHORD). The notes are written as quarter notes, and the chords are written as triads.

FAKE STRIDE

part 2

'FAKE' stride produces a similar sound to 'real' stride but is much easier to perform. In fake stride the object is to keep the bass notes and chord notes in closer proximity so that your left hand doesn't have too far to travel.

Try this example for the **chord of C**

LEFT HAND

FINGERS 3 1 5 1 3 1 5 1

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Can you see that the single bass notes are basically the same rhythm you played in the Oom Pah rhythm and the 1st and 2nd beats of the bar are a SPLIT CHORD

Transpose the rhythm to the chords of F and G and try the following chord progression - LEFT HAND ONLY

C

F **C**

5

G **C**

9

FAKE STRIDE


part 3

LET'S MAKE IT EVEN EASIER

Even the fake stride can be difficult to begin with (and tiring on the muscles)
To help you practise you can take out one of the CHORD notes (the 3rd). This
will help you get used to the movement of the notes without over-complicating
things.


Try the progression again and notice the missing notes. Much easier!

C G G G C G G G C G G G C G G G




3 1 5 1 ETC

F C C C F C C C C G G G C G G G



3 1 5 1 ETC

G D D D G D D D C G G G C G G G



3 1 5 1 ETC

Now let's introduce an easy RIGHT HAND pattern.

Listen carefully to the recording. It may look complicated but you will play it intuitively in no time at all.