

LEVEL 2 • COMPETENT

Instant Competent Upgrade

Soften your triads. Three modern voicings for the 5 – 4 – 1 in the key of F.

keep this
handy

THE CADENCE 5 → 4 → 1 (C → B♭ → F)

5

C chord

INSTEAD OF

~~C E G~~ plain triad

LEFT HAND

E F C

RIGHT HAND

G C

← left hand lands right here, on the “ba-da”

4

B♭ chord

INSTEAD OF

~~B♭ D F~~ plain triad

LEFT HAND

D B♭ C

RIGHT HAND

F B♭

← thumb hits F, then the C moves down to B♭

1

F chord

the ending

INSTEAD OF

~~F A C~~ plain triad

SPREAD IT

F C G A C F

low → high. Six notes instead of three – that is the whole trick.

Practice it

Play the three voicings slowly, in order, until your hands find them without looking. Then drop them into any song in F where you would have played the plain triads.

Don't sit on the 5 chord – it's a lick, it moves.