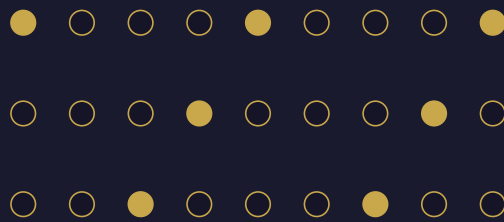


Accordion Fingering Chart

Understanding and using the Stradella bass system



Page 2 — The Stradella System: 6 Rows x 12 Columns

Page 3 — Practice Tips for Getting Started

The Stradella Bass System

Left Hand · Standard 120-Bass Accordion · Circle-of-Fifths Layout

Root Note (Column)	Ab	Eb	Bb	F	C	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#
Counterbass	Ab	Eb	Bb	F	C	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#
Fundamental Bass	Ab	Eb	Bb	F	C	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#
Major	Ab	Eb	Bb	F	C	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#
Minor	Abm	Ebm	Bbm	Fm	Cm	Gm	Dm	Am	Em	Bm	F#m	C#m
Dominant 7th	Ab7	Eb7	Bb7	F7	C7	G7	D7	A7	E7	B7	F#7	C#7
Diminished 7th	Ab°7	Eb°7	Bb°7	F°7	C°7	G°7	D°7	A°7	E°7	B°7	F#°7	C#°7

How to read this chart

Each column is a root note, arranged around the circle of fifths — moving left to right, the root rises by a perfect fifth each time.

Each row is a button function: counterbass and fundamental bass give single bass notes, the other four rows give ready-made chords.

On the instrument, the rows sit in exactly this order, stacked — counterbass at the outer edge, fundamental bass next to it, then major, minor, dominant 7th, and diminished 7th toward the bellows.

Example: for a simple waltz in C major, you mostly need just the "C" column (fundamental bass + major chord) and the "G" column (dominant) — two columns cover many simple accompaniments.

Practice Tips for Getting Started

1. Left hand alone first

Practice the left hand by itself, seated, looking at the buttons. Find column C without looking, then G, then F — the three most common root notes.

2. Fundamental-to-major switch

The most common movement: press the fundamental bass, then immediately the major chord in the same column — this switch forms the backbone of almost every simple accompaniment.

3. Touch before sight

The buttons are deliberately shaped to feel different (the C button usually has a notch or dot) — relying on touch early instead of constantly looking down speeds up progress significantly.

4. Practice bellows separately

Practice smooth, even bellows control apart from the fingering — a jerky bellows makes even correctly-fingered chords sound rough.

5. Small pieces, big payoff

A simple folk tune using just two columns (e.g. C and G) already sounds complete — small, mastered pieces are more motivating than large, half-practiced ones.

Ready for the next step?

This fingering chart is the starting point — in live 1-on-1 lessons you get immediate feedback on hand position and bellows control, and keep progressing with real structure.

Book a Free Discovery Call →

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