

The first thing you must do is to raise the melody an octave higher so that there is room under the melody to place the chords. It isn't necessary to harmonize or play a chord for every note, usually when playing a song which contains four beats to each measure you can put a chord on the first and third beats in each measure. Of course this is subject to your own personal taste. Where there is only one note to a measure, such as in measures four and eight, you can break up the chord by adding other chords or improvising a melodic fill in. The following is a chord melody solo on the tune "Aura Lee." The chord diagrams will help you to better understand the relationship between the melody notes and the chord forms. An analysis will follow.

Aura Lee

(Chord Melody Solo)

Chord diagrams and musical notation for "Aura Lee" (Chord Melody Solo).

Row 1: Gmaj7, Bm7, Am7, D9, Am7, D9, Gmaj7, Cm6, G6

Row 2: Gmaj7, Bm7, Am7, D9, Am7, D9, G

Row 3: Em7, A9, Dm7 (add 6), G7, Cmaj7, Am7, D7, Gmaj7

Row 4: B7, E7#5, Am7, D7, Am7, D13, Gmaj7, G6

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on the upper staff of each system, and the chords are indicated by chord diagrams above the staff. The diagrams show fingerings and fret numbers (e.g., 3 fr., 7 fr., 5 fr., 4 fr.). The key signature is one sharp (F#).