Intro to Counterbasses
by Shelia Lee

On a 48 bass accordion and larger - the row of basses closest to the bellows is called the **Counterbass Row**.

From the diagram - you will see that the "counterbass" is actually the 3rd note in the Bass's Scale -

i.e. C Scale - CDE or G Scale - GAB or F Scales - FGA

The counterbass is written with a **short line UNDER the note** to indicate that it is to be played on the counterbass row.

**FINGERING** - when playing Bass Chord pattern - whatever finger you use for the BASS - use the same finger for the counterbass

#1 Practice - C Major with Counterbass and Alternating Bass

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#2 Practice - G Major with Counterbass and Alternating Bass

DID YOU NOTICE - that when you include the ALTERNATE BASS - you are actually playing THE MAJOR CHORD TRIAD - or ARPEGGIO on the MAJOR CHORD!
i.e. C Scale - CDEFG - CEG is the C Major Chord, G Scale - GABCD - GBD is the G Major Chord, etc.
The Major Chord is built on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th tones of the Major Scale.

#3 Practice - F Major with Counterbass and Alternating Bass

NOW - go and play this same exercise using the D Major, A Major, and Bb Major basses.