

Intervals

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- The distance between any two notes is called an interval.

- If the two notes are played together then the distance between them forms a **harmonic interval**



- If one note comes after the other then the distance between them forms a **melodic interval**

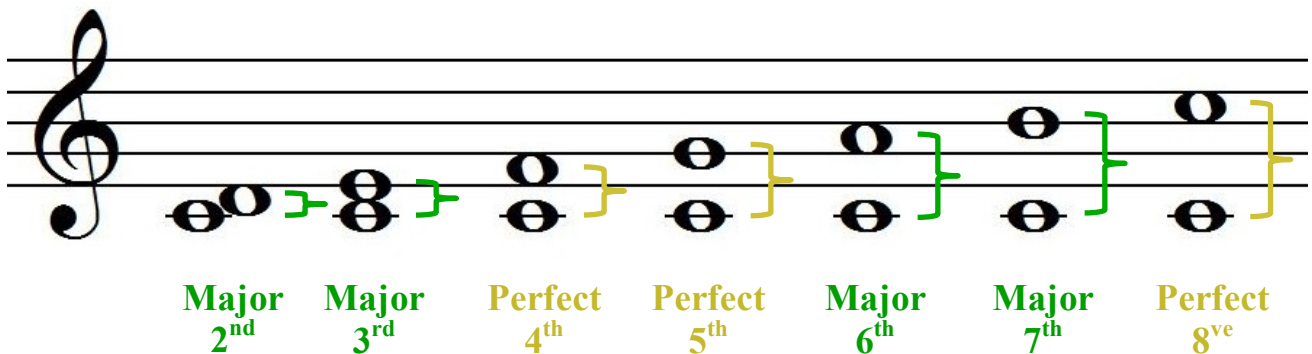


- When working out the distance of an interval, **both notes are counted**.
- Intervals are calculated **from the bottom note up**, even if the top note comes first!
- Treat the bottom note as the **first note of a major scale**.
- Work out if the top note belongs to the bottom note's major scale.

Calculating Intervals



- Start at the bottom note
- Count all the notes from the bottom note to the top note (e.g. C1, D2, E3, F4, G5)
- Treat the bottom note as the first note of a **major scale**.
- If the top note is in that scale, then we call the intervals by the following names:



- If the top note is not part of the major scale then follow these rules:

For Major Intervals (2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th)

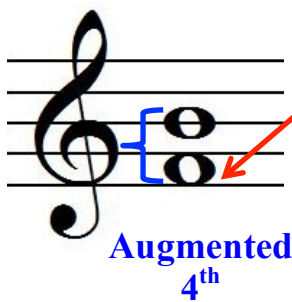
- One semitone more than major is **augmented**
- One semitone less than major is **minor**

For Perfect Intervals (4th, 5th and 8^{ve})

- One semitone more than perfect is **augmented**
- One semitone less than perfect is **diminished**



Examples of Calculating Intervals



1. Start at the bottom note (F).
2. Count all the notes from the bottom note to the top note (e.g. F1, G2, A3, B4) - so it's some type of 4th!
3. The bottom note is the first note in the scale of F major.
4. Does the top note, B, belong to the scale of F major? No! From knowing your keys and scales you should know that F major has a B \flat .
5. F to B \flat would have been a perfect 4th. B is **one semitone more** than B \flat , therefore F to B is an **augmented 4th**.



1. Start at the bottom note (A).
2. Count all the notes from the bottom note to the top note (e.g. A1, B2, C3) - so it's some type of 3rd!
3. The bottom note is the first note in the scale of A major.
4. Does the top note, C, belong to the scale of A major? No! From knowing your keys and scales you should know that A major has a C \sharp .
5. A to C \sharp would have been a major 3rd. C is **one semitone less** than C \sharp , therefore A to C is a **minor 3rd**.



1. Start at the bottom note (B).
2. Count all the notes from the bottom note to the top note (e.g. B1, C2, D3, E4, F5) - so it's some type of 5th!
3. The bottom note is the first note in the scale of B major.
4. Does the top note, F, belong to the scale of B major? No! From knowing your keys and scales you should know that B major has an F \sharp .
5. B to F \sharp would have been a perfect 5th. F is **one semitone less** than F \sharp , therefore B to F is a **diminished 5th**.