

# Root-Position Triad Basics - $\text{basso continuo}$

A **triad**, in its elemental form, is a chord composed of three notes stacked in thirds.

The lowest note is called the **root**.

The note a third above the root is called the **third**.

The note a fifth above the root is called the **fifth**.



A triad in which the root is the lowest note is called a **root-position triad**.



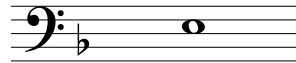

**Close position** indicates containment of all chord pitches within the smallest possible interval.

**Diatonic** indicates confinement to the pitches of the prevailing key without chromatic alteration.

Answers in this exercise are limited to **diatonic close root-position triads**.

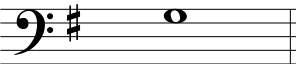

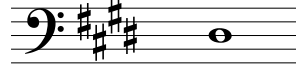

1. Each of the notes below is the root of a triad.

Draw a note a third above each root.

1	2	3	4
			




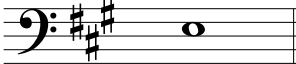
2. Each of the notes below is the root of a triad.

Draw a note a fifth above each root.

1	2	3	4
			

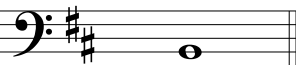
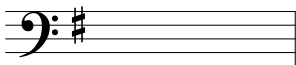
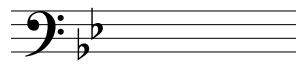
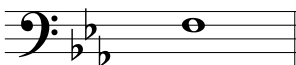
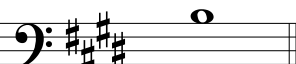
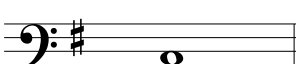
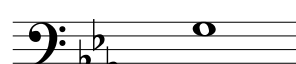
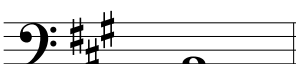
3. Each of the notes below is the root of a triad.

Draw the third and fifth above each root to create **close** root-position triads.

1	2	3	4
			

4. Triad position is indicated for each of the notes below.

Add notes to create **close** root-position triads.

1	2	3	4
			
5	6	7	8
			

# Close Root-Position Major Triads I -

A root-position **major triad** is composed of three notes stacked in thirds.

The interval between the bottom two notes (root and third) is a major third (M3).

The interval between the top two notes (third and fifth) is a minor third (m3).

The interval between the bottom and top notes (root and fifth) is a perfect fifth (P5).



Example

Answers in this exercise are limited to **close root-position major triads**.

## 1. Create close root-position major triads using the provided notes as roots.

Create the third of the triad by adding a note a M3 above the root.

Create the fifth of the triad by adding a note a P5 above the root (a m3 above the third).



1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

## 2. Triad position is indicated for each of the notes below. Add notes to create close root-position major triads.

1	2	3	4
fifth	root	third	fifth
5	6	7	8
third	fifth	fifth	third

# Close Root-Position Major Triads II - $\text{bass clef}$

Create close root-position major triads using the provided notes as roots.

Create the third of the triad by adding a note a M3 above the root.

Create the fifth of the triad by adding a note a P5 above the root (a m3 above the third).

Example

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

# Close Root-Position Major Triads III - $\text{bass}$

Triad position is indicated for each of the notes below. Add notes to create close root-position major triads.

Example

1	2	3	4

5	6	7	8

9	10	11	12

13	14	15	16