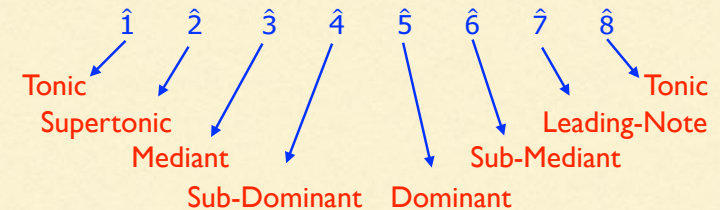
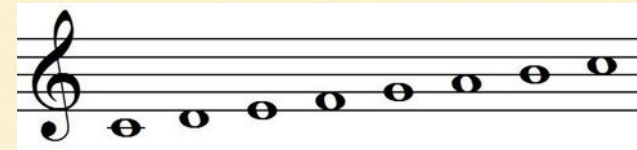


GRADE 6 MUSIC THEORY

Dr. Declan Plummer
Lesson 1: All Diatonic Chords

Scale Degrees

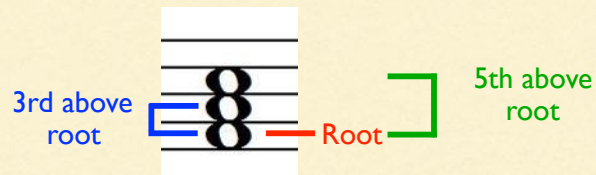
1. Each note in any scale is a degree. Degrees can be described using the numeric scale-degree notation to **reflect their positions** in the scale.



2. Each degree in any scale also has a special name **to reflect its importance and function** within the scale.

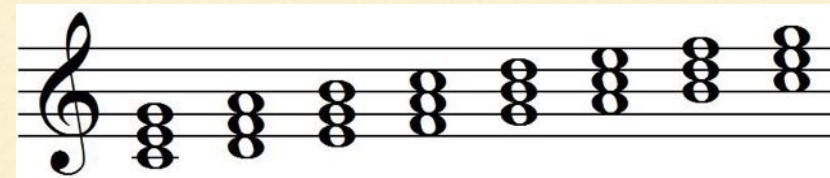
What is a Triad?

1. As the name suggests a triad is a group of three notes which are played together.



2. After harmonic intervals (which are two notes played together), a triad is the next most simple type of harmony
3. All triads are formed the same way:
 - the first note is the note the triad is based on, called **the root**
 - the second note is a **3rd above the root**
 - and the third note is a **5th above the root**

4. Triads can be built on any degree of any scale. Triads in the scale of C major:



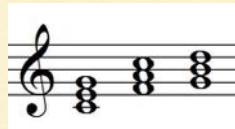
5. They take their names from the degrees of the scale on which they are based: the triad on the tonic is called the 'tonic triad'; the triad on the dominant is called the 'dominant triad' and so on.
6. Use **Roman Numerals** for harmony chords: **V** = Dominant Triad
Use **Numeric Scale-Degree Notation** for melody notes: **5** = 5th note of the scale

Triads in Major Keys

7. Triads (like intervals) can be **major**, **minor**, **diminished** or **augmented**:

Major Triads consist of a major 3rd and a perfect 5th

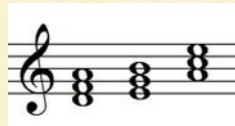
In the Key of C major



I IV V

Minor Triads consist of a minor 3rd and a perfect 5th

In the Key of C major



ii iii vi

Diminished Triads consist of a minor 3rd and a diminished 5th

In the Key of C major



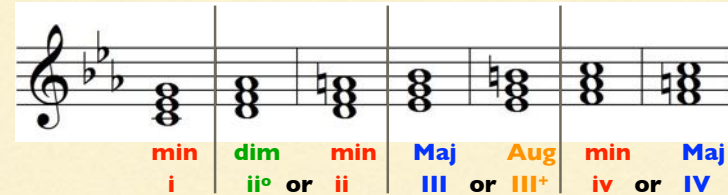
vii°

Triads in Minor Keys

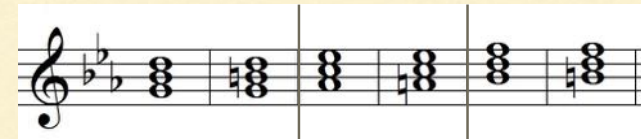
8. In minor keys there two possible triads for each degree (except the 1st): harmonic minor triads and melodic minor triads

C harmonic minor:
raised 7th (B \natural) ascending and descending

C melodic minor:
raised 6th & 7th (A \natural) (B \natural) ascending
normal 6th & 7th (A \flat) (B \flat) descending



min dim min Maj Aug min Maj
i ii° or ii III or III+ iv or IV



min Maj Maj dim Maj dim
v or V VI or vi° VII or vii°

Using chords exclusively from the harmonic minor scale can produce dull music

Coventry Carol

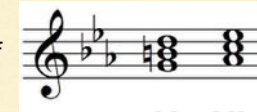
Using chords from the melodic minor scale can make the music more interesting

descending melodic minor form also creates descending scale movement

Harmonic Minor Triads

Major Triads consist of a major 3rd and a perfect 5th

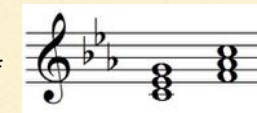
In the Key of C minor



V VI

Minor Triads consist of a minor 3rd and a perfect 5th

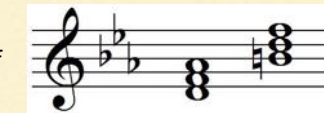
In the Key of C minor



i iv

Diminished Triads consist of a minor 3rd and a diminished 5th

In the Key of C minor



ii° vii°

Augmented Triads consist of a major 3rd and an augmented 5th

In the Key of C minor



III+

Summary of Triad Descriptions

	3rd	5th	Abbreviation	Example
Augmented	Major	Augmented	+	
Major	Major	Perfect	M	
minor	minor	Perfect	m	
diminished	minor	diminished	o	

Revision of Triads

M
I

m
ii

m
iii

M
IV

M
V

m
vi

o
vii°

using
 harmonic
 minor scale

m
i

o
ii°

+
III+

m
iv

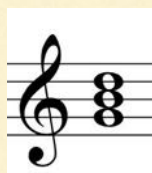
M
V

M
VI

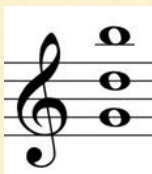
o
vii°

Open & Closed Positions

1. When a chord is played with its notes as close together as possible, it is described as being in 'closed position':

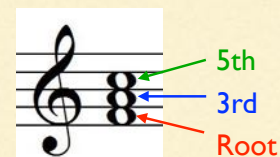


2. When a chord is played with its notes spaced apart, it is described as being in open position - this is more popular, but you have to recognise both positions.

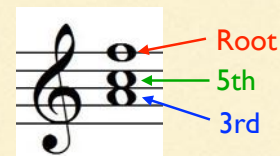


Inversions

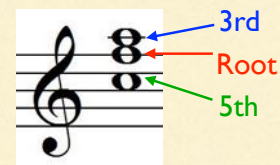
1. So far we've seen **root position** (with the root at the bottom). Take for example F triad with the notes F, A and C:



2. A triad can also have the 3rd at the bottom. This is called **first inversion**. In the F triad this would be A at the bottom, with C and F somewhere above it:



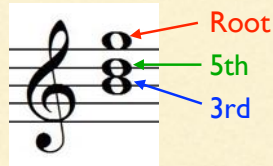
3. A triad can also have the 5th at the bottom. This is called **second inversion**. In the F triad this would be C at the bottom with F and A somewhere above it:



Inversions

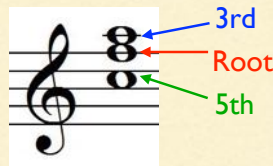
4. When using Roman Numerals to denote triads it is also possible to use small letters, **a**, **b** and **c** to indicate root position, first inversion and second inversion respectively.

For example, V_b means the **first inversion of the Dominant Triad**. In the key of C major, V = GBD, therefore V_b = BDG



V_b in the key of C major

For example, IV_c means the **second inversion of the Subdominant Triad**. In the key of C major, IV = FAC, therefore IV_c = CFA



IV_c in the key of C major

The Importance of Inversions

Start

'Hornpipe' from Water Music Suite No.2 by Handel

'Hornpipe' from Water Music Suite No.2 by Handel without inversions

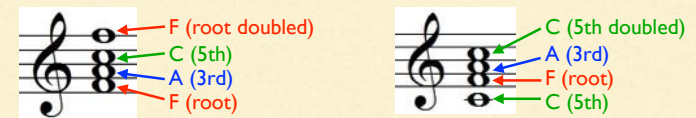
The Importance of Inversions

Start

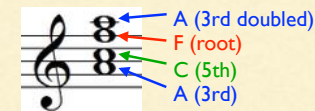
Wagner: Overture to Tannhäuser

Chords

1. A chord is usually three or more different notes that are sounded together. A triad is one of the basic types of chord, using 3 notes stacked up in 3rds.
2. You can make a triad a fuller sounding chord by **doubling any of the notes** that make up a triad (usually the root). For example, the F triad (F-A-C):



Doubling the 3rd rarely happens because it doesn't sound as good as the other two chords above



3. They are **always** called the **root**, the **3rd** and the **5th** even if they are inverted or appear in a different octave