

Section 1 - Chords



Triads and the Major Triad

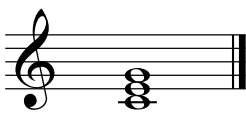
Triads are **chords** made up of three different notes and can be built on any scale degree.

A **root position triad** (with the **root note** – the note on which the triad has been built – on the bottom) will have a root note, a note a third higher and a note a fifth higher than the root note.

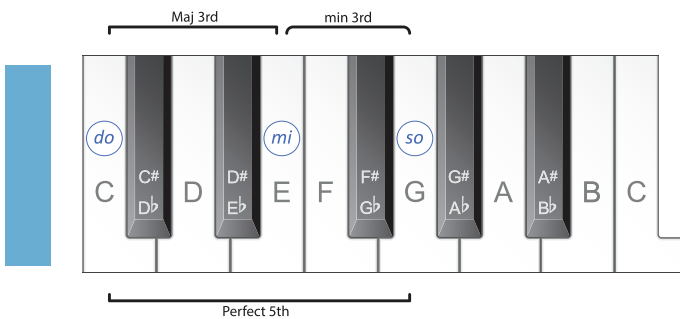
A **Major triad** (in root position) is made up of a root note, the note a **Major 3rd** higher and the note a **Perfect 5th** above the root note.

Clear, concise academic information and explanations.

Intervals within the C Major Triad

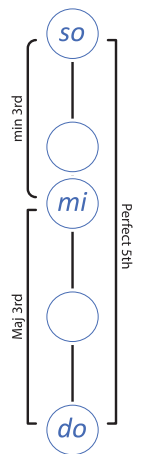


C to E is a Major 3rd (as it is the 3rd note of the C Major scale) and E to G is a minor 3rd (E to G is a semitone smaller than the Major 3rd due to the semitone between E and F - *mi* and *fa*).

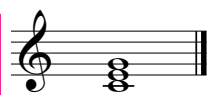


Therefore, the bottom interval in a Major Triad is a Major 3rd and the top interval is a minor 3rd.

Tone ladders and keyboards give a visual representation of concepts.



Labelling or Naming Triads and Chords



Chord Name: This naming system uses the letter name of the root note the triad is built on and the quality of the triad. This triad can be called the **C Major triad** (it is the Major triad built on C).

Information sheet with additional information about concepts taught

Roman Numeral: This triad is **Chord I** in C Major. (I is UPPERCASE meaning Major and I is the Roman numeral for the number 1 - it is the triad built on the 1st scale degree of the C Major scale).

Figures: Small numbers can be added to show the intervals between the bottom note and other notes within a triad or chord. This triad is I^{3} indicating that there is a 5th and a 3rd above the root note.

Tonal or Functional Name: This is the tonal or functional name of the root note the triad is built on within a particular scale. Triads can be **diatonic**, or belong, to a particular scale. This triad can be called the **C Major tonic triad** (all the notes in this triad belong to the C Major scale and it is built on the tonic of C Major).



Triad and Chord Practice

Examples designed for students to sing – helping to cement their understanding of the new concepts.

Triads and chords can be practiced melodically by singing the notes that create the chord in solfa, with handsigns.



Worksheet 5

S1 Chords 1 Complete these sentences.

Worksheet with theory and aural transcription exercises

The bottom 3rd in a Major triad is a _____ 3rd. The top 3rd in a Major triad is a _____ 3rd.

The interval from the lowest note to the highest note in a Major triad is a _____ .