

Building Triads

Using Intervals

Major Triads

You can create a triad by stacking two intervals of a third.

In the blank spaces below, write how the number of half steps between the top and bottom note for each interval (C-E and E-G).

C major triad

5th
3rd
root

Based on the number of half steps, determine whether each interval is a major third (4 half steps) or a minor third (3 half steps). Write "maj" for a major third or "min" for a minor third on the blank spaces below.

_____third

_____third

Practice Assignment - Find all major triads at the piano by stacking the correct intervals, starting on the following notes:

C G D A E B | F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb

Minor Triads

You can change a major triad to a minor triad by lowering the middle note (the 3rd) by one half step.

In the blank spaces below, write the number of half steps between the top and bottom note for each interval (C-Eb and Eb-G).

C minor triad

5th
3rd
root

Based on the number of half steps, determine whether each interval is a major third (4 half steps) or a minor third (3 half steps). Write "maj" for a major third or "min" for a minor third on the blank spaces below.

_____third

_____third

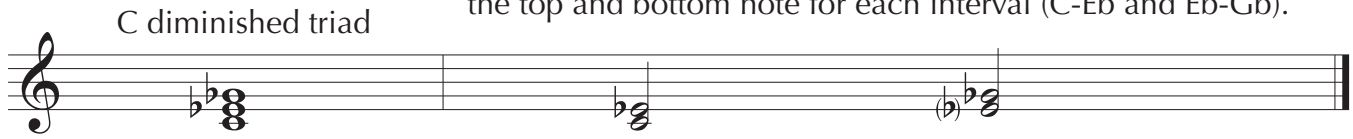
Practice Assignment - Find all minor triads at the piano by stacking the correct intervals, starting on the following notes:

C G D A E B | F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb

Diminished Triads

You can change a minor triad to a diminished triad by lowering the top note (the 5th) by one half step.

In the blank spaces below, write the number of half steps between the top and bottom note for each interval (C-Eb and Eb-Gb).



Based on the number of half steps, determine whether each interval is a major third (4 half steps) or a minor third (3 half steps). Write "maj" for a major third or "min" for a minor third on the blank spaces below.

_____ third

_____ third

Practice Assignment - Find all diminished triads at the piano by stacking the correct intervals, starting on the following notes:

C G D A E B | F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb

Naming Triads

We refer to triads by their root and quality. The root is the lowest note of the triad (C, Db, D, Eb, E, F, Gb, G, Ab, A, Bb, or B). The quality of the triad refers to whether it is a major, minor, or diminished triad.

For example, if the bottom note of a triad is G and it is a major triad, we call it a G major triad.

If the bottom note of a triad is Eb and it is a minor triad, we call it an Eb minor triad.

If the bottom note of a triad is C and it is a diminished triad, we call it a C diminished triad.

Triads are also called chords. The term "triad" and "chord" may be used interchangeably.

Root: _____ Quality: _____

(C, Db, D, Eb, (major/minor/
F.Gb, G, Ab, diminished)
A, Bb, B)