

A Fun Way to Learn Music Theory

Printable Music Theory Books

Music Theory

Level 3

Student's Name: Class:

Printable Music Theory Books Level Three

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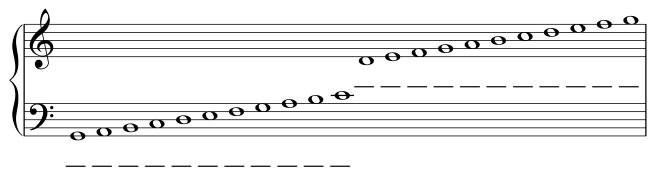
Section 1

Pitch Reading

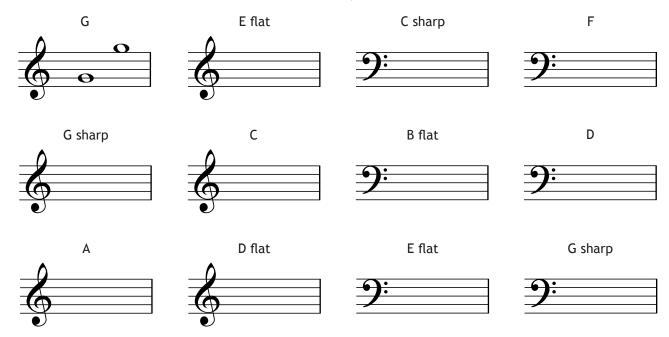
Notes in the Treble and Bass Clefs

| Notes and rests are placed in the lines and spaces of the* |
|--|
| The stave has lines and spaces. |
| For the piano, two staves are aligned together with a This is called a stave. |
| 1.115 15 cance a stare. |

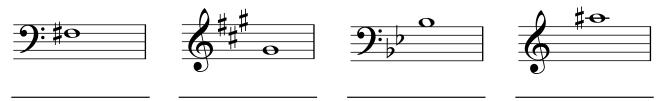
Complete the names of all these notes in the treble and bass clefs:



Write two examples of the following notes on the staff below each note name. Use ledger lines and accidentals if needed. (The first one has been done for you):



Name the following notes in the space provided below the stave:



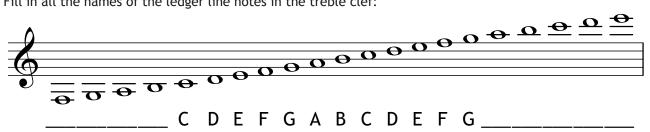
^{*}Throughout this text, revision knowledge is presented with "fill in the blanks" exercises. If you don't know the answers refer to the answer key on page 87, where you'll also find a reference to learn more about the topic in level one or two of this theory course.

Ledger Lines

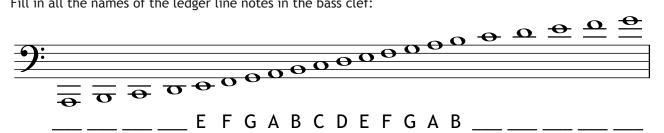
Notes can sit on lines above or below the stave. These lines are called ______ lines.

True or false: Ledger lines should be spaced by exactly the size of a note. ____

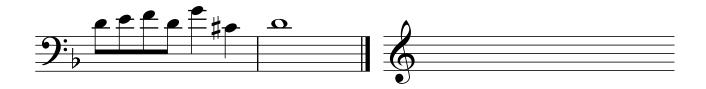
Fill in all the names of the ledger line notes in the treble clef:



Fill in all the names of the ledger line notes in the bass clef:



Rewrite the following excerpt of music in the treble clef:



Circle the three poorly written ledger lines in this excerpt of music:



Enharmonic Notes

When a note sounds at exactly the same pitch as another, yet has a different letter name it is referred to as an **enharmonic** note.



is the exactly the same pitch as:

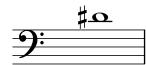


Draw a line between the note on the left and its enharmonic equivalent note on the right:



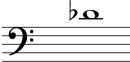








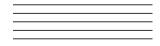






Rewrite the following notes as an enharmonic equivalent:

















Clefs

A clef is a musical symbol which is used to determine the pitch of written notes. There are three types of clefs used in modern music notation: G clefs, F clefs and C clefs.



When it is not placed on five lines, this symbol is NOT called a treble clef! It is called a G clef, because it evolved from a stylized letter "G", and once it is placed on the staff will determine where G is located.

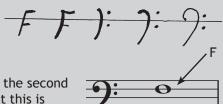
In early use (pre 1750) it could be found written on different lines of the stave.



The only modern use of the G clef is where it is placed surrounding the second line up of the stave, and then it is called a **treble clef**.



Once again, until it is placed on the stave this symbol is not a bass clef. It is called an F clef, because it it supposed to represent a stylised capital "F"





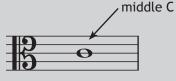
Once placed on the stave the two dots surround the second line from the top, and therefore determines that this is where F is located.



The third type of clef used in modern music is a **C clef**, and this clef determines where middle C is located through the use of two curves.



The most common C clef used is the Alto Clef, where it is placed surrounding the middle line of the stave. This clef is used for the Viola and other instruments that require notes equally above and below middle C.



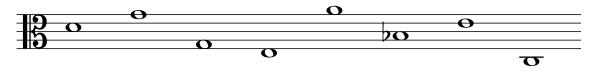
Hand drawn C clefs do not require such elaborate curves as the printed ones have, and as long as the two curves surround the intended line and there is a thick line and a thin line, alto clefs may be drawn like this:



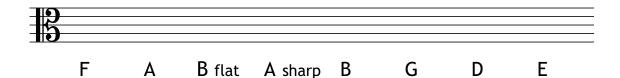
Practice drawing alto clefs:

Using The Alto Clef

Name these notes in alto clef:



Write the notes on the staff above each of the names provided in alto clef:

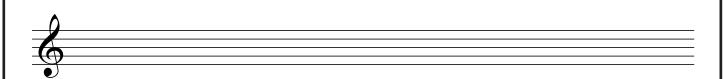


Rewrite the following music into alto clef:



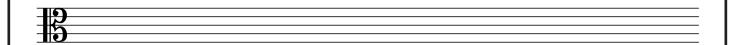
Rewrite the following into treble clef:





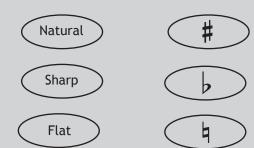
Rewrite the following line of music into alto clef:





Accidentals

Draw a line from the name of on the left to its symbol on the right:



A _____ raises the pitch of a note by one semitone

A _____ lowers the pitch of a note by one semitone

An accidental generally continues for the rest of the _____

unless it is canceled by a _____ sign.

A natural sign can also be used to change a note from the _____ signature.

Add the accidentals necessary to make all the Bs in this piece become B flats:

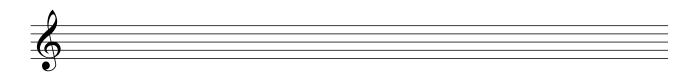


Add accidentals necessary to make all the C sharps become C naturals in this piece:

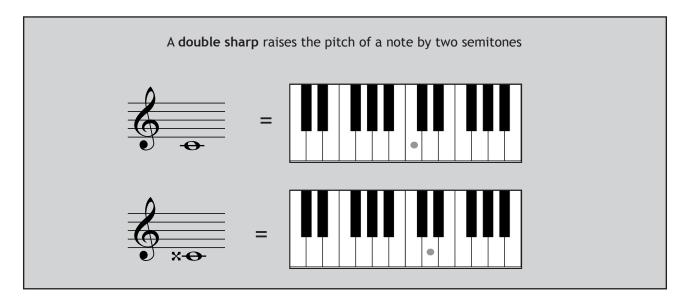


Write the piece of music below again, using accidentals instead of a key signature:

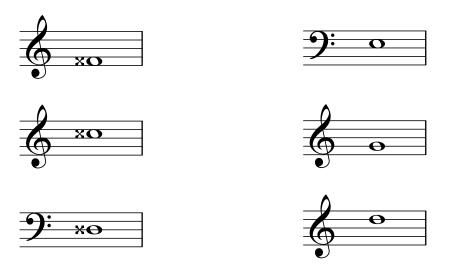




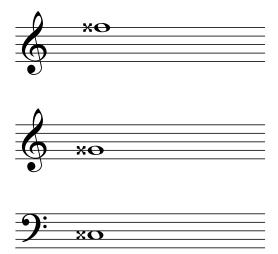
The Double Sharp



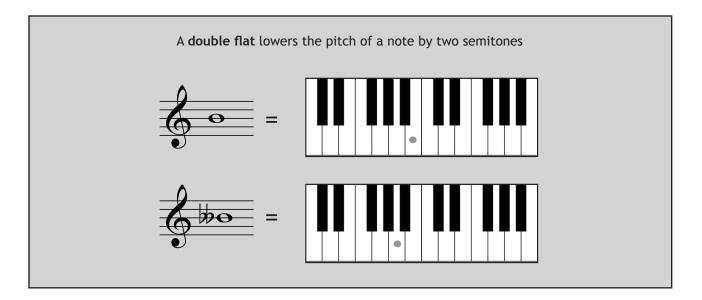
Draw a line from the note on the left to its enharmonic equivalent on the right:



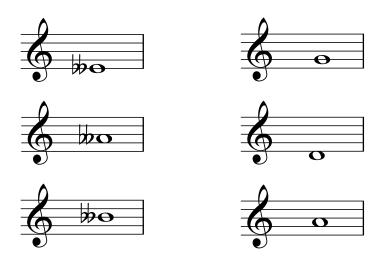
Write the enharmonic equivalent of these double sharp notes after the note:



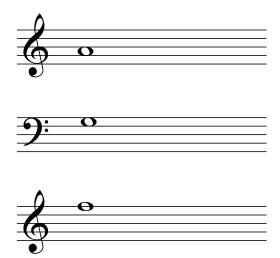
The Double Flat



Draw a line from the note on the left to its enharmonic equivalent on the right:



To the right of each of the following notes draw the enharmonic double flat equivalent:



Section 2

Rhythm Concepts

Note and Rest Values

Complete this table:

| European Name | | American Name |
|-----------------|------|---------------|
| Semibreve | o | Whole Note |
| | | |
| | | |
| | ЛЛЛЛ | |
| | | |
| Demisemiquavers | | 32nd Notes |

Draw an equivalent rest for each note in the table below:

| Note | Rest |
|------|------|
| o | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| A | |

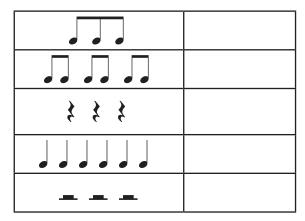
Complete these beat "sums" by writing one note equivalent in value:

Dotted Notes and Rests

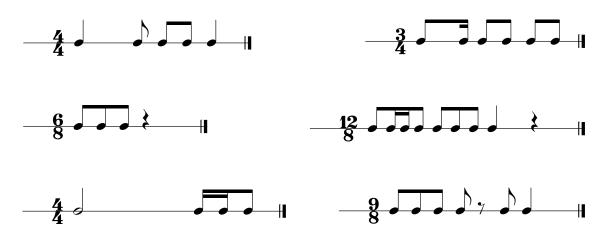
A dot, added to the right hand side of a note, _____ its value by _____ of ____ .

Both notes and _____ may be dotted.

Complete this table by writing one dotted note or rest equal in value to each of these groups:



Complete these rhythms by adding dots to one or more notes or rests where needed, to fill up the bar:



Circle the two incorrectly dotted notes in this piece of music:



Time Signatures

Time Signatures may be described as Simple or ______.

______ time signatures include $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$.

______ time signatures include $\frac{6}{8}$, $\frac{9}{8}$, and $\frac{12}{8}$.

** Refer to Level Two, pages 38-44 for a complete description of these terms

Group these time signatures as Simple or Compound, by drawing them in the boxes below

2 3 12 4 9 3 6 4 2 2 4 8 4 8 8 8 8 4

Simple Time Signatures

Compound Time Signatures

Complete this definition:

In a time signature, the top number ______

and the bottom number ______

True or false: The time signature comes before the key signature in a piece of music ______

Complete this table:

| 4 4 | Simple Quadruple | Four Crotchet Beats per Bar |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 8 | | |
| 6 8 | | |
| 2 2 | | |
| 9 | | |
| 3 4 | | |
| 12 8 | | |

Tuplets

A ______ is an "irrational rhythm" where a ______ number of notes are fit into the same amount of time as the normal number of notes.

The most common form of tuplet is the ______ , where _____ notes are fit into the time of two.

(an quaver triplet) is equal in value to ____ (two quavers).

And _____ (a crotchet triplet) is equal in value to ____ (two crotchets).

Duplets

In a **Duplet** two notes are expanded to fill the time of three:

Therefore is equal in value to:

Triplets are mainly used in Simple Time, while Duplets are only found in Compound Time.

Circle the Duplets in this example:





By writing Duplets or Triplets where necessary, fill these bars with the indicated notes:

Seven Quavers: Five Quavers:



Eight Quavers: Nine Quavers:

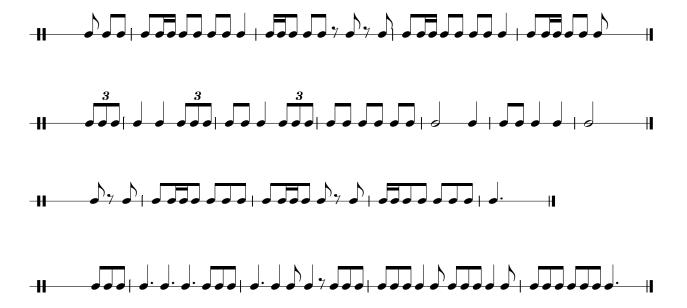


Adding Time Signatures

Add time signatures to the following:



Add the correct time signature to these rhythms, which include an anacrusis:



Simple Triple 3

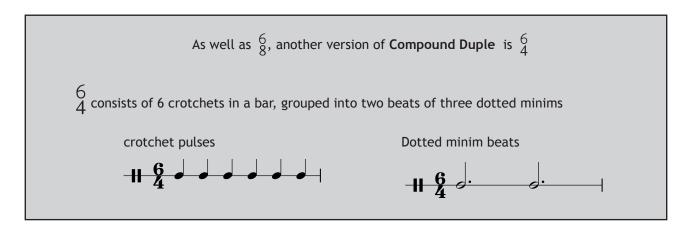
As well as $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$, another time signature which can be described as **Simple Triple** is $\frac{3}{2}$

- 3 Means there are three beats per bar
- $2 \longleftarrow$ Means that the note value of one beat is a minim

Complete these bars with quavers grouped correctly:



Compound Duple 6



Identify these rhythms as $\frac{3}{2}$ or $\frac{6}{4}$ by adding a time signature:



Adding Barlines

Add barlines to complete these rhythms:



Add barlines to these rhythms, which include an anacrusis:



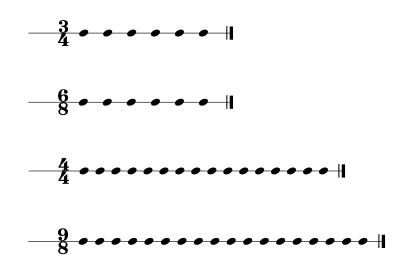
Grouping of Notes

Notes and Rests must be grouped to effectively show their time signature, in order to make it easy for musicians to read.

For example there are the same number of semiquavers in $\frac{6}{8}$ as there is in $\frac{3}{4}$ time, but the notes are grouped differently:



Add stems and beams to these note heads to group the notes correctly in each of the time signatures given:



Rewrite these rhythms, grouping the notes correctly:



Grouping of Rests

Rests should also be grouped, just as notes are, to show effectively where the beats fall in the bar.

There are some particular rules to watch out for:

 $\ln \frac{4}{4}$ time you cannot use a minim rest over beats 2 and 3, only over beats 1 and 2 or 3 and 4.





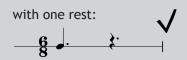
 $\ln \frac{3}{4}$ time you can use a minim rest over beats 1 and 2, but not beats 3 and 4.

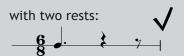


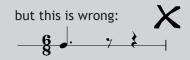




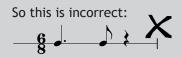
In compound time signatures the rests should either be dotted, or written with the longer rest first. For example a beat of silence in compound time can be written:

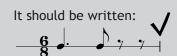






Similarly to $\frac{3}{4}$ time in $\frac{6}{8}$ you cannot use a crotchet rest over pulses two and three of the group of three quavers, it should be written with two quaver rests





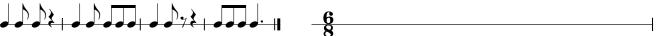
Circle the errors in these examples:

Now rewrite them correctly:











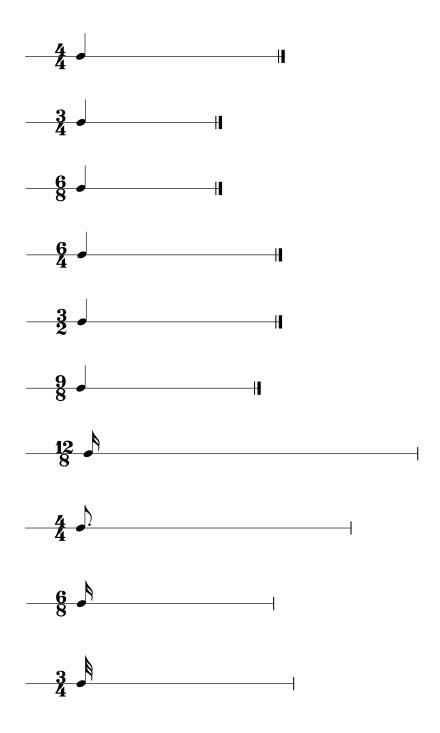


Completing Bars with Rests

When completing bars with rests, remember two general principles:

- 1. Complete each beat before going onto the next
- 2. Group notes and rests to clearly show the time signature

Complete each of the following bars with rests, grouping them correctly:



Section 3 Intervals

Perfect Intervals

An ______ is the distance between two notes.

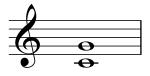
Intervals of a unison, fourth, fifth or octave are normally described as _____ intervals.

A _____ interval is played together, and a _____ interval is played consecutively.

Circle the perfect intervals below:



Name these harmonic intervals:









Write the harmonic intervals above the given notes below:









Perfect Unison

Perfect Octave

Perfect Fourth

Perfect Fifth









Circle and name the melodic perfect intervals in this melody. The first one has been done for you:

Perfect 4th



Major Intervals

When the upper note is found in the major scale of the lower note, the interval can be either or

If the upper note is in the major scale of the lower note, the intervals of Unison, 4th, 5th, and Octave are described as ______.

If the upper note **is in the major scale of the lower note**, the intervals of 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th are described as _______.

Name these intervals:

















Write the following intervals above the given note, using accidentals as needed:









Perfect 4th

Major 2nd

Perfect 8ve

Major 7th









Circle any of these intervals which are NOT major or perfect:



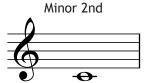
Minor Intervals

While major intervals can be determined if the upper note is in the major scale of the lower note, minor intervals ____ relate to minor scales in the same way.

A minor interval has ____ semitone than its equivalent major interval.

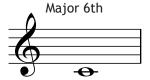
Write these intervals above these notes:

















Identify each of these intervals as major or minor:









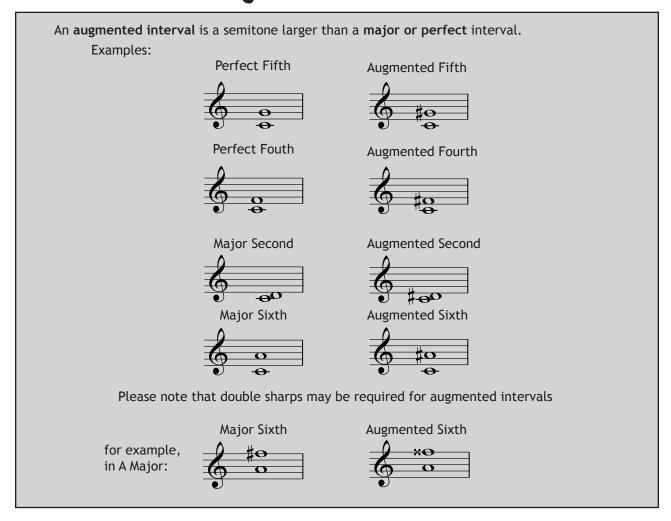








Augmented Intervals



Rewrite these intervals, converting them into augmented intervals:



Circle the augmented intervals below:

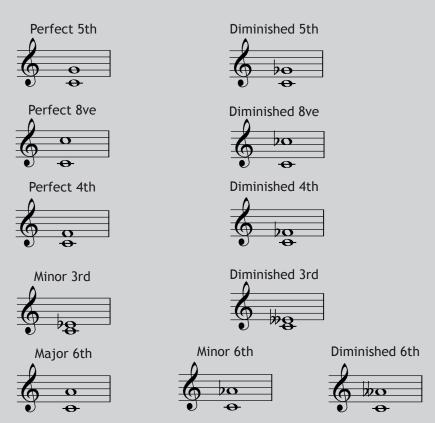


Find the melodic augmented interval in this melody:



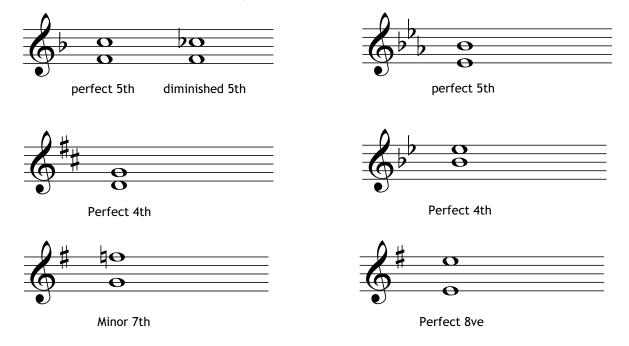
Diminished Intervals

A diminished interval has one less semitone than a minor or perfect interval, and two less semitones than a major interval.



Please note: Double flats will often be required for diminished intervals.

Write diminished versions of these intervals alongside them, and write their names (the first one has been done for you)



The Tritone

The Augmented 4th and the Diminished 5th can also be called a **Tritone**.

The augmented fourth

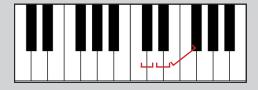


The diminished fifth



The tritone is named as such because it consists of a gap of three whole tones.





Write a tritone above these notes in two different ways: (i.e. as an augmented fourth and as a diminished fifth)





Circle the tritones below:



Circle the melodic interval of a tritone in the following melody:



Write the following intervals above the given note:







Diminished 5th



Practicing Intervals

Name these intervals:

























Write these intervals:

Minor 2nd



Augmented 4th



Major 6th



Minor 3rd



Minor 6th



Major 3rd



Minor 7th



Perfect 8ve



Diminished 5th



Major 2nd



Perfect 4th

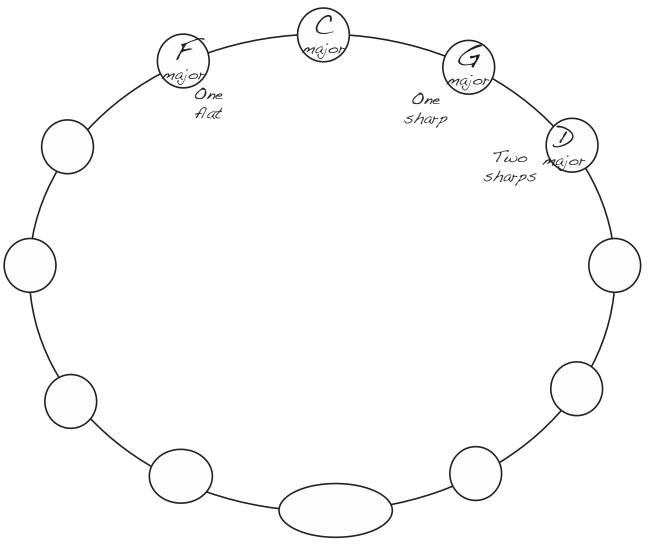


Perfect 5th



Section 4 Keys and Scales Major Keys and the Circle of 5ths

Complete the circle of 5ths for major keys below, and add the number of sharps and flats for each key:



What is the order of sharps in a key signature? ___ __ __ __ ___ ___ ____

Draw the key signature of seven sharps:



Write down a rhyme to help you remember:

What is the order of flats in a key signature? ___ __ __ __ __ ___

Draw the key signature of seven flats:



Write down a rhyme to help you remember:

Major Scales

In a major scale, the semitones fall between the ____ and ____,
and the ____ and ____ degrees of the scale.

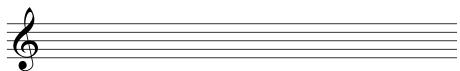
Mark the semitones with a slur in this two octave C major scale:



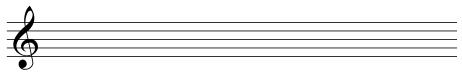
Write the pattern of tones and semitones underneath this scale:



Write the key signature and scale of F major, one octave ascending in semibreves, marking the semitones with slurs:



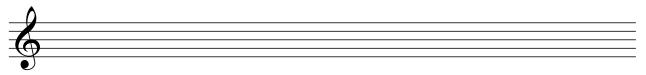
Write the scale of G major, one octave descending in semibreves, marking the semitones with slurs. Use accidentals instead of a key signature:



Write the key signature and scale of D major for two octaves ascending in semibreves, marking the semitones with slurs:



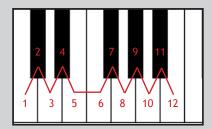
Write the scale of B flat major for two octaves descending in semibreves. Use accidentals intead of a key signature, and mark the semitones with slurs:



The Chromatic Scale

The chromatic scale is made up of twelve equally spaced notes, each a semitone apart.

This is equivalent to playing every single note on the piano keyboard in sequence.



There are two ways a chromatic scale can be written:

1) Write the scale with sharps when ascending, with flats when descending:





OR

2) Write the scale within the context of the key signature, adding accidentals as necessary for the semitones.



Write the chromatic scale beginning on E, ascending to the next E:



Write the chromatic scale beginning on A descending to the next A:



Diatonic & Chromatic Notes

Diatonic means "within the key"

and usually refers to notes, intervals or chords that fall within the scale or key of the music.

For example, in this melody the only note that is not diatonic to C major is the F sharp which has been circled.

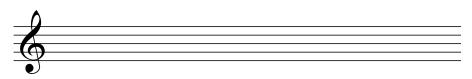


Circle all the notes that are not diatonic to the scale of A major in this music:

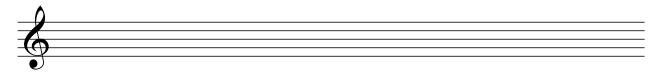


Chromatic refers to any note which can be found in the chromatic scale, or any note which is not within the diatonic scale.

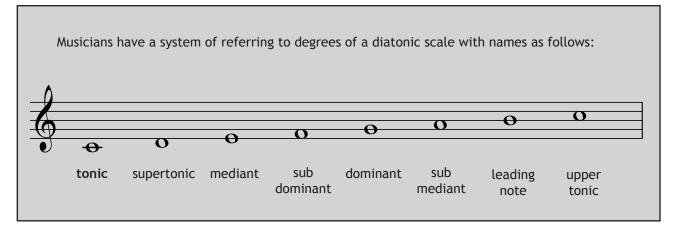
Write the diatonic scale of G major for one octave ascending:



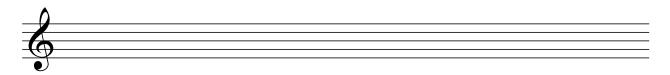
Now write the chromatic scale beginning on G for one octave ascending, and compare them. Circle the notes in the chromatic scale that are not diatonic to G major:



Technical Names for Scale Degrees: The Tonic



Write out the scale of F major, and name the scale degrees as they are above:



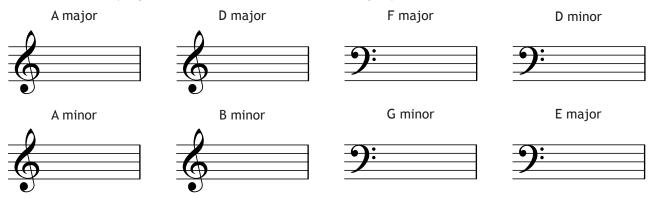
The **tonic** or the **root note** is the note that the scale starts and ends on, and the higher one is usually referred to as the upper tonic.



Circle the tonic every time it occurs in this melody in G major:



Write the key signature and tonic note of the following keys:

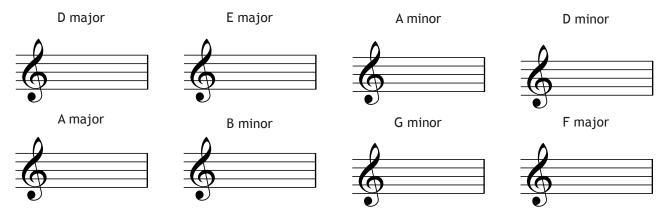


Technical Names for Scale Degrees: The Dominant and Leading Note

The next most important name to know is the **dominant**. This is a perfect fifth above the tonic. It is called the dominant because it can "dominate" the ear.



Write the key signature and the dominant note of each of the following keys:

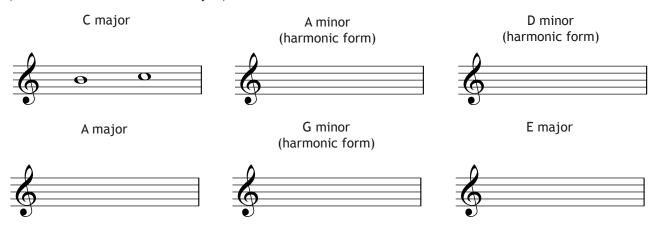


Circle the dominant every time it occurs in this melody in F major:



The seventh note of the scale is called the **leading note**. It is called this because it "leads" the ear to the tonic. In minor scales the leading note is often raised, as in the harmonic minor scale.

Write the leading note and upper tonic of the following keys: (the first one has been done for you)



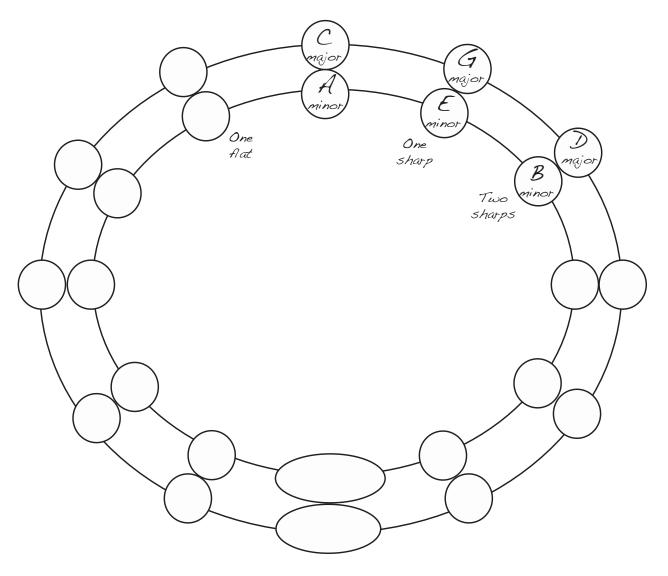
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Major/Minor Key Relationship

| Every major key has a minor key, which shares the same | |
|--|----|
| To find the relative minor of a major key you can count down the interval of a, or the interval of a | up |

Complete the following circle of fifths diagram, with major keys around the outside, and relative minor keys on the inside. Complete it by adding the number of sharps or flats in each key signature:



Refer to your new diagram to answer the following questions:

What is the relative minor of F Major?

What is the relative minor of A Major?

What is the relative major of G minor?

What is the relative major of B flat minor?

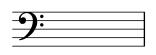
The Key of E Major

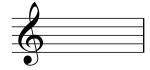
The key of E major has a key signature of _____ sharps.

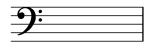
Its relative minor is _____ minor.

Write the key signature of E major four times:









Write the scale of E major in the treble clef, one octave ascending using a key signature:

Write the scale of E major in the bass clef, one octave ascending using accidentals:

True or false: this piece of music is in E major: _____





Write these individual notes from E major:









The Key of B Major

The key of B major has _____ sharps.

Its relative minor is _____ minor.

Write the key signature of B major four times:



Write the scale of B major using a key signature in the bass clef:

Write the scale of B major using accidentals instead of a key signature in the treble clef:

Add all necessary accidentals to make this piece diatonic to the scale of B major:



Circle and name all the tonic notes and dominant notes in this melody in B major:





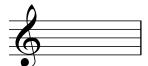


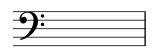
The Key of A flat Major

The key of A flat major has _____ flats.

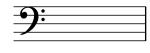
Its relative minor is ____ minor.

Write the key signature of A flat major four times:









Write a two octave A flat major scale in the treble clef, using a key signature, and marking the semitones with slurs:

Write one octave of the scale of A flat major in the bass clef, using accidentals instead of a key signature, and marking the semitones with slurs:

True or false: this music is in A flat major: _____



Circle all the leading notes found in this melody in A flat major.

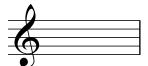


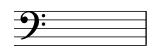
The Key of D flat Major

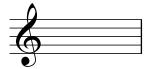
The Key of D flat major has _____ flats.

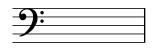
Its relative minor is _____ minor.

Write the key signature of D flat major four times:









Write the scale of D flat major in the treble clef for one octave ascending using accidentals instead of a key signature:

Write the scale of D flat major using a key signature in the bass clef, one octave descending:

Write the following notes in the key of D flat major:









Write the following intervals above D flat:









Minor 6th







The Natural Minor Scale

The **natural minor** scale has ____ altered notes from the key signature. In the natural minor scale the semitones occur between the ____ and ____, and ____ and ____ degrees. Write the scale of E natural minor in the treble clef, using a key signature: Write the scale of D natural minor in the treble clef, using accidentals instead of a key signature: Write the scale of A natural minor in the bass clef for one octave descending: Mark with a tick in the box which of these scales are natural minor scales:

The Harmonic Minor Scale

| The harmonic minor scale is the common form of minor scale. |
|--|
| The harmonic minor is the as the natural minor, except that it has the degree (or note) raised by one semitone. This raised seventh is always written with an, not in the key signature. |
| The semitones occur between the &, & and & degrees. |
| Add sharps where necessary to raise the leading notes of these scales, turning them from natural minor scales into harmonic minor scales: |
| |
| |
| |
| Vrite the scale of E harmonic minor in the bass clef, one octave ascending: |
| |
| Vrite two octaves of the scale of A harmonic minor ascending in the treble clef, and mark the semitones with slurs: |
| |
| Vrite the scale of D harmonic minor in the bass clef, one octave descending: |
| |

The Melodic Minor Scale

The **melodic minor** scale is different to all the other scales in that it is **different** when ascending than when descending.

Start with the natural minor scale. When ascending, raise BOTH the 6th and 7th Degrees

When descending, go back down to the normal notes of the natural minor scale.

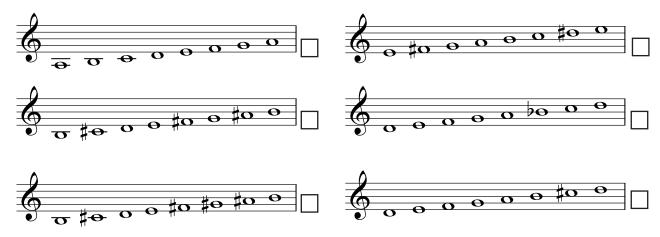


| Write the scale of D | melodic r | minor in the | e treble clef. | ascending and | descending: |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | | | | |

Write the sale of E melodic minor in the treble clef, ascending and descending:

Write the A melodic minor scale in the bass clef, ascending and descending:

Mark which of these is an ascending melodic minor scale with a tick in the box:



The Key of G Minor

The key of G minor has a key signature of _____ flats.

Its relative major is _____ major.

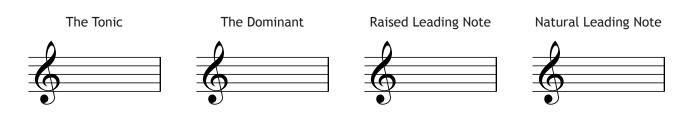
Write the scale of G natural minor for one octave ascending in the bass clef, using accidentals instead of a key signature:

Write the scale of G harmonic minor for one octave descending in the treble clef, using a key signature:

Write the scale of G melodic minor for one octave ascending and descending in the treble clef, using a key

Write the scale of G melodic minor for one octave ascending and descending in the treble clef, using a key signature:

Write the following notes from the key of G minor:



True or False: This music is in G minor:_____



The Key of C Minor

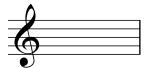
The key of C minor has a key signature of _____ flats. Its relative major is _____ major. Write the key signature of C minor four times: Write the scale of C natural minor for one octave ascending in the treble clef, using a key signature: Write the scale of C harmonic minor for one octave ascending in the bass clef, using accidentals instead of a key signature: Write the scale of C melodic minor for one octave ascending and descending in the treble clef, using a key signature: Write the following individual notes from C minor: The Tonic The Dominant Raised Leading Note Natural Leading Note

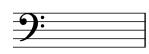
The Key of B Minor

The key of B minor has a key signature of _____ sharps.

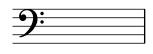
Its relative major is _____ major.

Write the key signature of B minor four times:









Write the scale of B natural minor in the bass clef, two octaves ascending and mark the semitones with slurs.

Write the scale of B harmonic minor in the treble clef, two octaves ascending and mark the semitones with slurs.

Write the scale of B melodic minor in the treble clef, ascending for one octave and descending for one octave.

Write the following notes from the key of B minor:

The Tonic

The Dominant



Raised Leading Note



Natural Leading Note



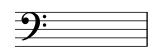
The Key of F sharp Minor

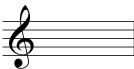
The key of F sharp minor has a key signature of $___$ sharps.

Its relative major is _____ major.

Write the key signature of F sharp minor in the treble and bass:









Write the scale of F sharp natural minor in the treble clef, one octave descending:

Write the scale of F sharp harmonic minor in the bass clef, two octaves ascending and mark the semitones with slurs:

Write the scale of F sharp melodic minor in the treble clef, ascending for one octave and descending for one octave:

Add accidentals necessary to make this piece sound correctly in F sharp minor (harmonic form):



The Major Pentatonic Scale

Pentatonic scales have just five notes per octave ("penta" meaning five, as in pentagon etc)

The most basic form of the pentatonic scale is the **major pentatonic scale**, which is essentially the same as a major scale, omitting the fourth and seventh degrees. Or you could think of it as degrees 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the major scale.

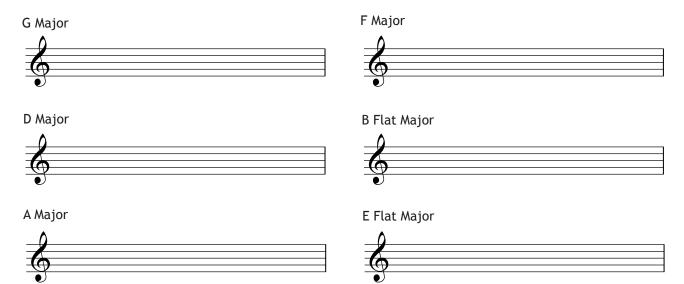
The major pentatonic scale sounds quite tuneful and is great for improvisation, as you can't really play any wrong notes if you stay within the scale. For this reason the pentatonic scales are commonly used in all types of music.



The major pentatonic scale starting on G flat is equivalent to playing just the black notes on a piano. This explains how someone can make up a tune that sounds tuneful playing on just the black notes, even if they have never played the piano before!



Write out major pentatonic scales in the following keys, using key signatures:



True or False: The following tune (the first two lines of the folk song "Oh Susannah!") is constructed using the major pentatonic scale: _____



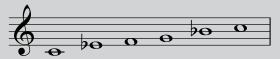
The Minor Pentatonic Scale

Just like the major scale, the **minor pentatonic scale** can be thought of as the same as the natural minor, omitting the second and sixth degrees.

Starting with the C natural minor scale:



Omitting the 2nd and 6th degrees leaves us with:



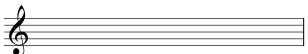
Another way to construct the minor pentatonic scale is to start with the major scale, and construct it using the following degrees:

1 3 4 !

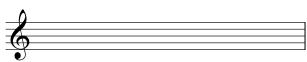


Write out minor pentatonic scales using accidentals in the following keys:

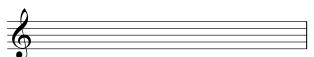




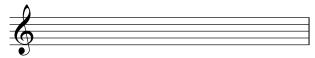
E minor



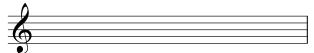
D minor



B minor



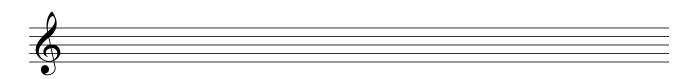
G minor



C minor



Compose your own short tune using the minor pentatonic scale:



The Blues Scale

To write a **blues scale**, start with a minor pentatonic scale, and then add in a sharpened fourth scale degree. This extra note is the 'blue note' that gives the scale its characteristic sound:

The "formula" for its construction is therefore:

1 3 4 #4 5 7 8

Written out in C:

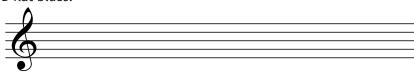


Construct the following blues scales, using accidentals where needed:

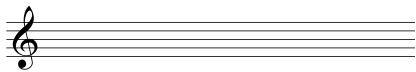
F blues:



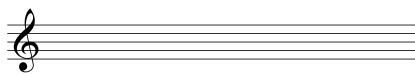
B flat blues:



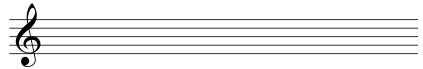
E flat blues



G blues



D blues



A blues



The Whole Tone Scale

Another unusual scale which is used extensively in all types of music is the whole tone scale.

This scale is constructed with each note being one tone from its neighbours. Starting on C and progressing up by tones therefore results in the following scale:



Starting on D results in exactly the same notes, just starting on a different note:



Starting on B, however, does result in a different scale:



If you have access to a piano, experiment with these by playing whole tone scales starting on different notes. You'll discover there are essentially only two scales:

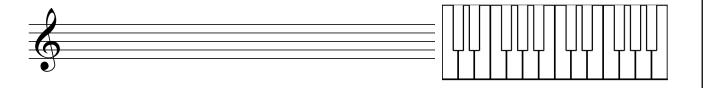
One with the notes C, D, E, F#, G# and A#

and the other one has B, C#, D#, F, G and A.

Write the whole tone scale starting on C, going up two octaves. Then colour in the piano keys corresponding to those notes.



Write the whole tone scale starting on C sharp, going up two octaves. Then colour in the piano keys corresponding to those notes.

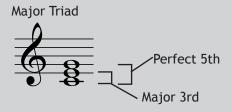


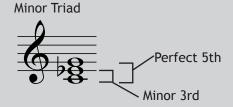
Triads

The most basic form of chord is called a ______.

A triad consists of a _____ note, with a 3rd and a 5th built upon it.

Triads can be major or minor, depending on their interval structure:





A tonic triad is the triad built on the first degree of the scale.

Build major tonic triads for each of the major key signatures below:







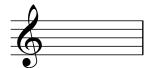


Build minor tonic triads in each of the minor key signatures below:

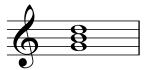






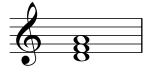


Identify each of these triads as major or minor:

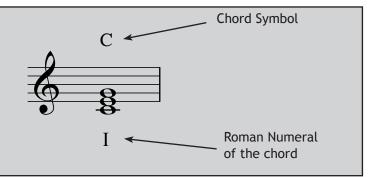








Chords are labelled with their chord symbol above the stave, (which is just their root note for triads), or with Roman Numerals below the stave.

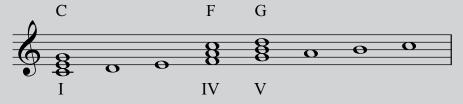


Primary Triads in Major Keys

Triads built on the first (tonic), fourth (subdominant) and fifth (dominant) degrees of the scale are called the **primary triads**, as these are the most useful and commonly used chords.

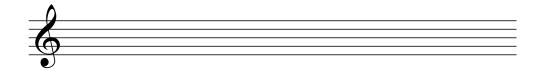
As you know, the chord built on the first degree of the scale is called the **tonic** triad. The chord built on the fifth degree of the scale is called the **dominant** triad, and the chord built on the fourth degree of the scale is the **subdominant** triad.

Primary triads in C major:

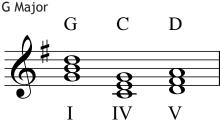


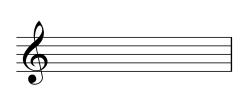
In major keys all three of the primary triads are major triads.

Write the scale of F major, and build the three primary triads on the 1st, 4th and 5th degrees. Label the chords with both chord symbols above the notes and Roman Numerals below:



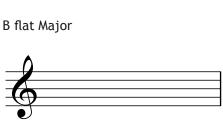
Write the key signature and the three primary triads of all the major keys below, labelling them with the chord symbols above and the Roman Numerals below. (The first one has been done for you.)

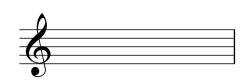


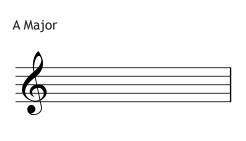


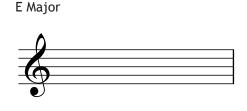
D Major

E flat Major









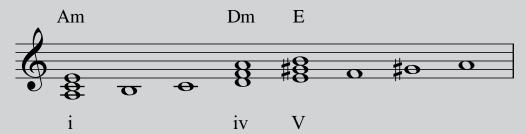
Primary Triads in Minor Keys

In minor keys:

The tonic triad is minor;

The subdominant triad is minor;

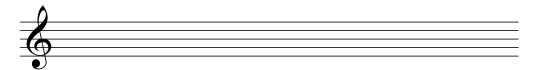
but... the dominant triad is **major**, thanks to the raised leading note of the harmonic minor scale (which is the most commonly used form of the minor scale).



Note the chord labelling:

- In the chord symbols a minor triad is represented by a lower case "m" placed after the letter name of the chord.
- It is common practice to use upper case roman numberals i.e. I, IV, and V for Major Triads, and lower case Roman Numerals i, iv, and v for minor triads.

Write the scale of G harmonic minor using a key signature, and write the three primary triads above the 1st, 4th and 5th degrees. Label the chords using chord symbols above and Roman Numerals below:



Write the scale of D natural minor using a key signature, and write the three primary triads above the 1st, 4th and 5th degrees. After you've labeled the chords note the difference that this makes to the dominant triad.

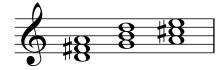


Identify the key of each of these sets of triads, and label each chord:

Key:_____

Kev:

Key:_____







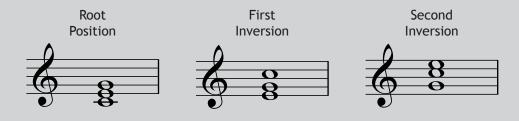
Inversions of Triads

All the triads we have seen so far have had the root as the lowest note which is called the bass note.

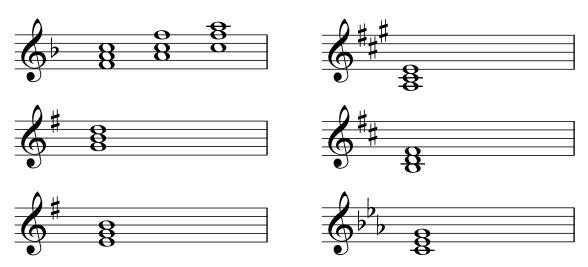
It is also possible for one of the other notes to be the lowest note. This new arrangement of a chord, which no longer has the root as the bass note, is called an **inversion**.

When the third is in the bass, and the root note is moved to the top, we have a first inversion.

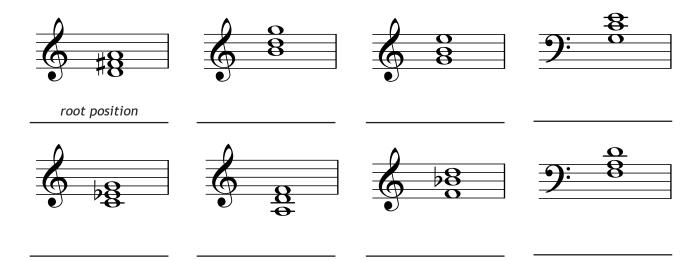
When the fifth is in the bass, and the root and third are moved up we have a second inversion.



Write the two inversions after each of the following root position triads: (the first one has been done for you)



Name these chords as root position, 1st inversion or 2nd inversion on the line underneath:



Figured Bass Naming for Inversions

Classical music has a system of labeling for inversions which is called **figured bass**. In this system two figures are added alongside the roman numeral to represent the inversion.

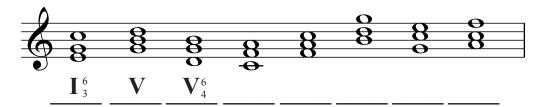
A first inversion is labelled as a $\frac{6}{3}$ chord, as it involves an interval of a 3rd and a 6th above the bass note:



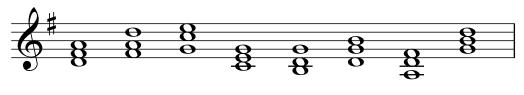
A second inversion is labelled as a $_4^6$ chord, as it involves an interval of a 4rd and a 6th above the bass note:



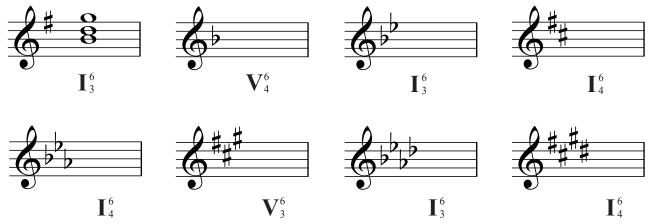
Identify the following triads in C Major by placing Roman Numerals and figured bass on the line underneath.



Identify the following triads in G Major by placing Roman Numerals and figured bass on the line underneath.



Write major triads as indicated by the key signature, Roman Numerals and figured bass given below the stave. (the first one has been done for you)



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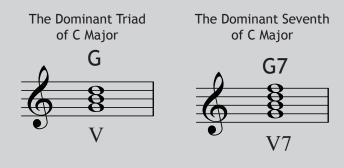
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The Dominant Seventh Chord

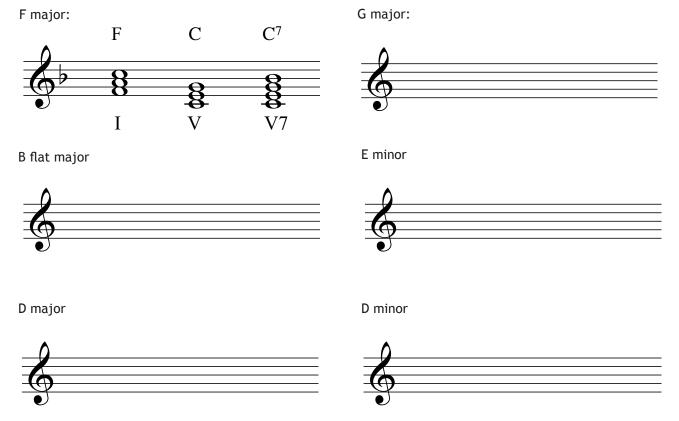
A seventh chord is when you build the interval of a seventh on top of a triad, making it into a four note chord.

Seventh chords come in many different types, but to start with we are dealing with the most important, the **Dominant Seventh** Chord.

The Dominant Seventh Chord consists of the normal dominant major triad, with a minor seventh built on top.



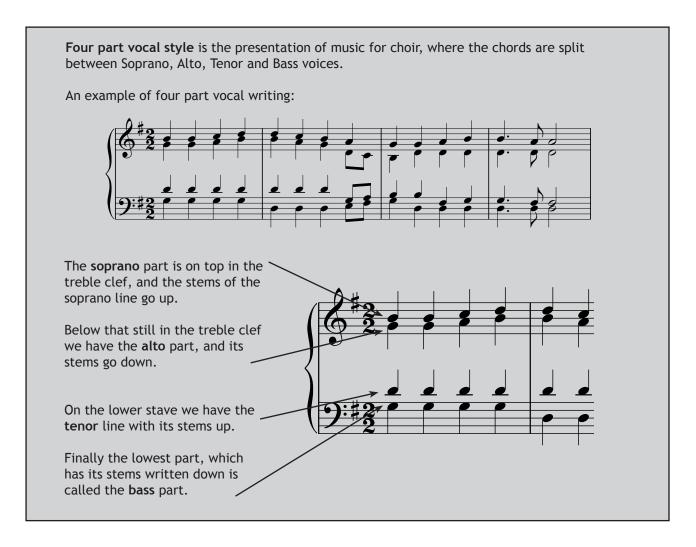
Using a key signature, write the tonic triad, the dominant triad and the dominant seventh in each of the following keys. Label them with chord symbols above and Roman Numerals below (the first one has been done for you):



Interesting note.... Because of the raised leading note in the harmonic minor scale the dominant seventh is **the same** in both minor and major keys.

Section 6

Classical Approach to Harmony Four Part Vocal Style



Circle all the notes that are part of the tenor voice in this example:

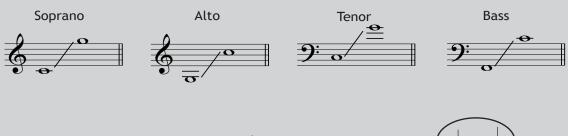


Rewrite the soprano voice from the above example onto its own stave:

Writing Within Vocal Ranges

When writing in four part vocal style, it is important to write within the standard range for each voice.

The safe ranges for each voice are*:

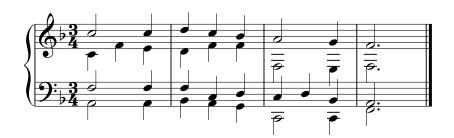


In this example you can see that the soprano voice has been asked to sing an "A" and a "B-flat - higher than would be comfortable to sing.



Circle the errors in vocal range in the four part vocal examples below:







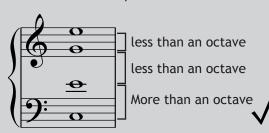
^{*} Please note that these ranges can vary in different texts/exam syllabi. Please check these with your local examination board if preparing for external examinations.

Gaps Between Voices

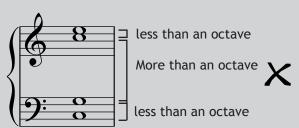
When we are writing and voicing chords in four part vocal style we must also consider the gap that occurs **between** the voices.

A gap of more than an octave between the tenor and bass is permissible, but not between the soprano and alto, or alto and tenor.

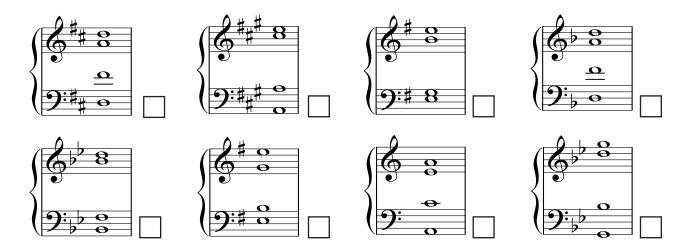
So this chord is acceptable:



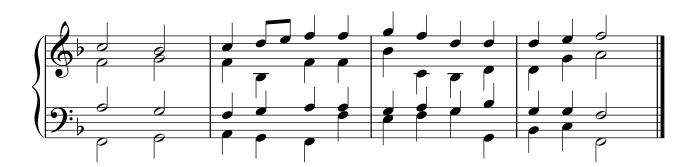
but this one is not:



Look at the following chords and mark them with a tick or a cross in the box if they are spaced correctly:



Circle the five chords in this example which are voiced with incorrect spacing:

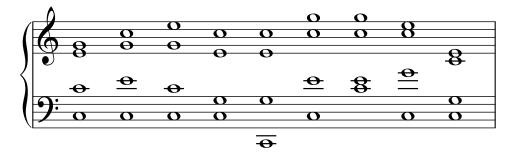


Doubling: Giving a Triad a Fourth Note

When we are writing in four part vocal style obviously we are going to need four notes. As a triad only has three we are going to have to **double** one of them (use it twice).

In most instances it is usual to double the root note.

The root note must be placed in the bass in a root position chord, and therefore the doubled note can be placed in any one of the other three voices.



Look at the above example of various voicings of a C major triad, then answer these questions:

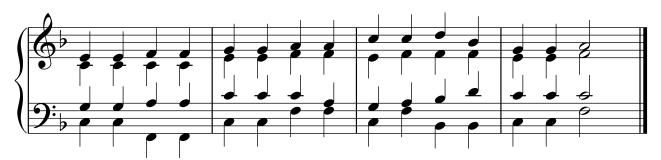
Is the root doubled in all these chords? _____

How may times does the tenor have the doubled root note? ____

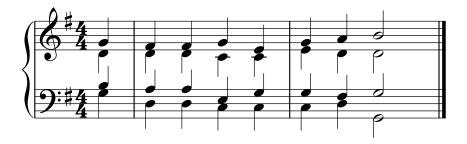
How many times does the alto have it? _____

How many times does the soprano have it? _____

In the following example of four part vocal writing, circle the root note and the doubled root note of every chord:



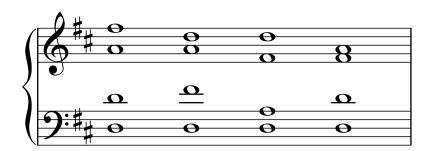
In this example find one chord where a note other than the root note has been doubled:

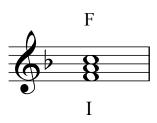


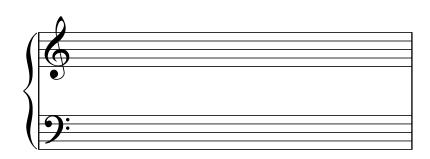
Voicing Triads in Four Part Vocal Style

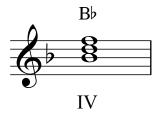
Take the following triads, and voice them in four part vocal style in four different ways: Remember the rules about gaps and the range of the voices, and double the root in every chord. (the first one has been done for you)

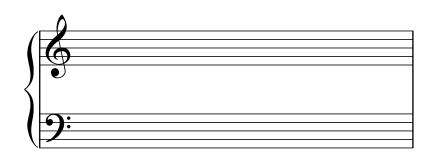




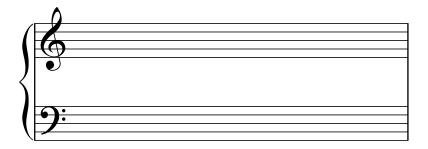








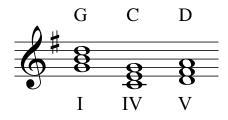


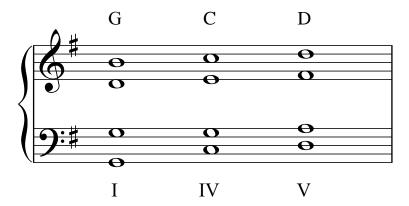


Primary Triads in Four Part Vocal Style

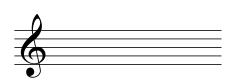
Write the three primary triads of each of the keys below: first as triads on the left, and then in four part vocal style on the right.

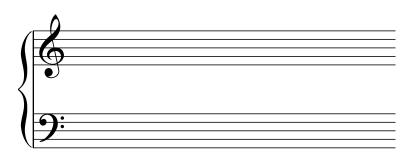






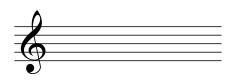
2. A major

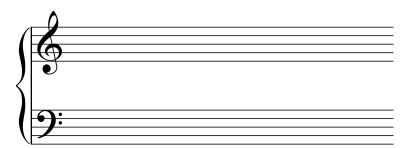




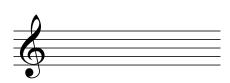
^{*} When working in minor keys don't forget the raised leading note which occurs in Chord V

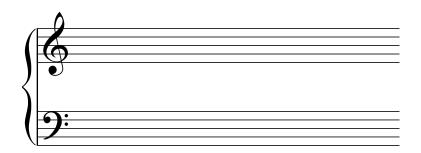
3. E minor





4. D minor





Perfect Cadences

A **cadence** is a progression of chords that is usually found at an end of a phrase, a section or a piece of music.

A **perfect cadence** is the most common "ending" progression of chords which is found in all types of music.

Its chord progression is:



(Or sometimes V7 - I)

This is a dominant chord, followed by a tonic chord. It gives a sense of completion to the music or the phrase.





How to Write a Perfect Cadence

When you write a perfect cadence the idea is to have each voice lead smoothly from one note to another, so that there are not any large jumps.

You may find it helpful to write down the notes of each chord in this fashion, then cross them out as you use them. Notice that we have doubled the root in both chords:

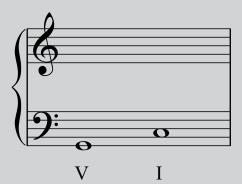
 $\begin{array}{cccc}
G & C \\
D & G \\
B & E
\end{array}$

/ I

Step 1: Bass Notes

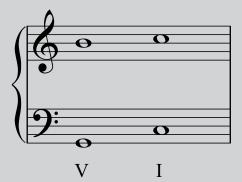
In these simple root position cadences the bass always sings the root, so there is no choice to be made here.

G C D G B E A L



Step 2: Leading note > Tonic

The leading note, always present in Chord V, must lead to the tonic. Here we have put it in the soprano voice:



Step 3: Common Tones

In a perfect cadence there is always a common tone - i.e in this example G appears in both chord V and Chord I. Put this in one of the remaining voices:



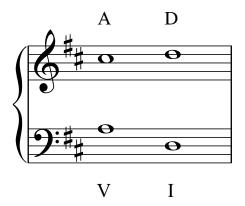
Step 4: Remainder Notes

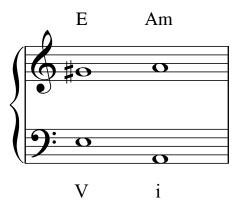
Complete the cadence by filling in the remainder notes in the final voice:



Writing Perfect Cadences

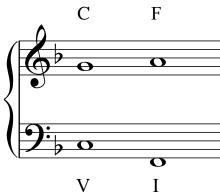
Fill in the alto and tenor parts of these two perfect cadences, following steps three and four from the previous page (as steps 1 and 2 have already been done for you).

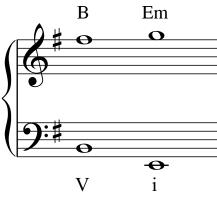




It is preferrable to have the leading note rising to the tonic in the soprano voice. However if we are given the top part to harmonize without this in the soprano then it can be placed in the alto or tenor parts.

Harmonize the following perfect cadences:





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 $\ensuremath{\text{@}}$ 2010 The Fun Music Company Pty Ltd

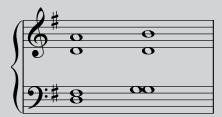
Common Errors in Harmony: Overlapping Parts

There are a few common errors that we must look out for when we start harmonizing cadences, and eventually harmonizing whole phrases of music.

1. Parts must not overlap.

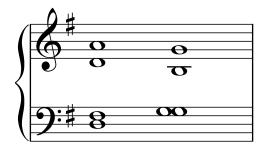
In the following example cadence you'll see that the cadence has been written with the bass note in the second chord going higher than the tenor part in the first chord. This is called overlapping parts, and must be avoided.

Luckily in this case, it is a simple matter to put the bass part down an octave in the second chord, thus avoiding the problem.

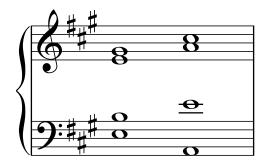


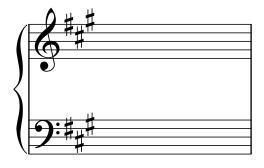


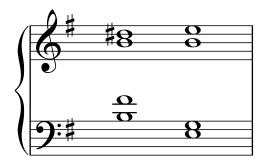
Rewrite the following poorly written cadences, avoiding the error of overlapping parts:













Common Errors in Harmony: Consecutive Fifths and Octaves

In Western music it has been common practice to avoid consecutive fifths and octaves, and when writing all harmony we must learn to watch out for them.

This occurs when an interval of a fifth or octave appears in one chord, followed by an interval of a fifth or octave in the same two voices.

If you follow the steps given on pg 64 for writing perfect cadences, then this shouldn't occur, however it is a good idea to learn to check for this now:



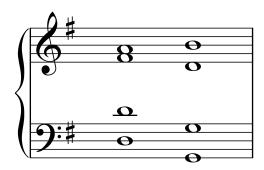


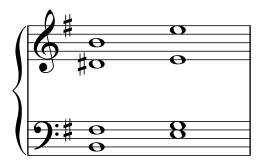
They are easy to spot when occuring in the bass and tenor, or the soprano and alto, however consecutive 5ths and octaves can occur between tenor and soprano, or alto and bass, even if they are an octave apart.

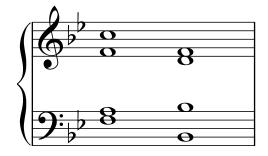


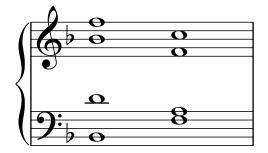


Mark the consecutive fifths and octaves with a bracket in these poorly written cadences:









A Special Perfect Cadence: Supertonic to Tonic

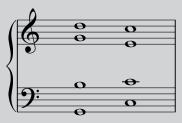
There is one "special case" perfect cadence which we have to look out for. In this particular cadence we do things a little differently in order to avoid problems.

This occurs when you need to harmonize the soprano line going from the supertonic falling to the tonic.

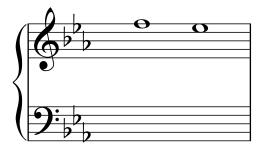
i.e. we are asked to harmonize:

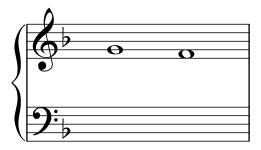


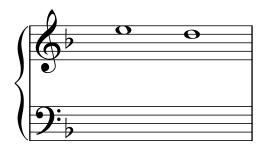
In this cadence you need to triple the root in Chord I, as the bass needs to have the tonic, the leading note must rise to the tonic, and the soprano already has the tonic. You must never leave the 3rd out of a chord, so in this case you have to leave the 5th out of Chord I, and the resulting cadence is:

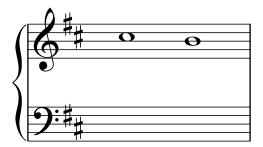


Harmonize the following supertonic to tonic perfect cadences:



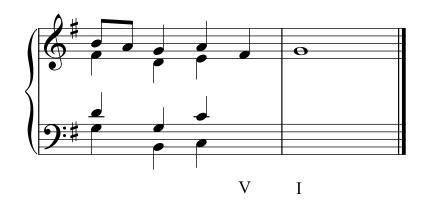


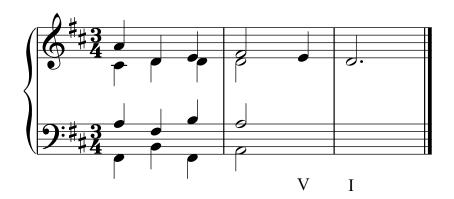


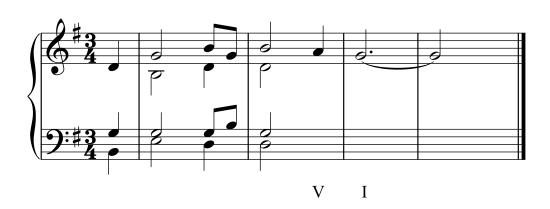


Practice Harmonizing Perfect Cadences

Harmonize the perfect cadence at the end of each one of these phrases, above where the chords have been indicated for you:







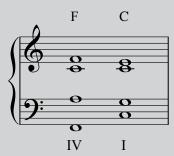
Plagal Cadences

A plagal cadence is an alternative ending chord progression used mostly in classical music.

Its chord progression is:



Plagal cadences have a very pleasant definite ending, and traditionally this progression is used when singing "Amen" at church.



Step 1: Write out the chords on a scrap of paper, and fill in the bass notes and cross them out





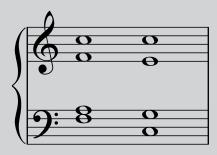
Step 2. There is no leading note to worry about in a plagal cadence, however there is a common note. Choose a voice and put that in next. In this example, we've put it in the soprano.





Step 3. Complete the other two parts. Both the other two parts should fall by step



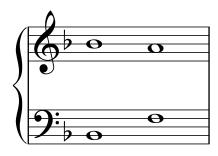


Writing Plagal Cadences

Complete the following plagal cadences by filling in their inner parts:



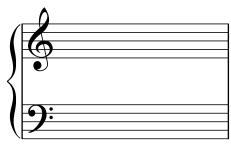




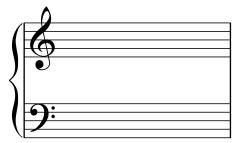


Write a plagal cadence from scratch in the following keys:

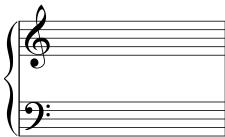
D minor



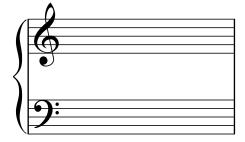
B minor



A major



G major



Section 7

A Modern Approach to Harmony Piano Style Harmony

Imagine now that we now have to apply our new knowledge about chords and harmony to a more modern setting, and we've been asked to write a piano part for a song.

We are going to show you an example using just a simple chord progression like this:



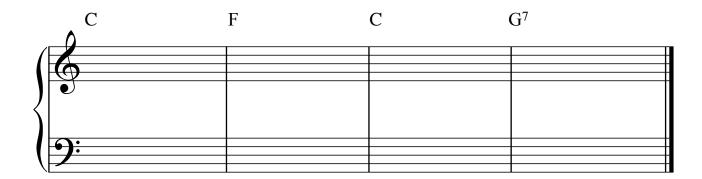
The easiest way to harmonize it is simply with block chords, moving as smoothly as you can from one chord to another. Notice in the example below that the common tones between chords stay the same.



When writing for piano style chords:

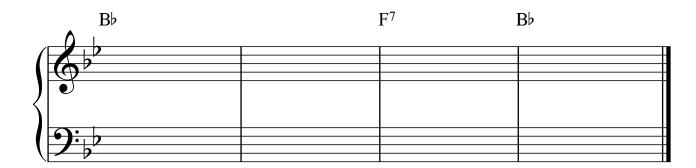
- Generally there are three notes for the right hand, and the bass note for the left hand
- Make sure that your notes in the right hand are not spaced more than an octave apart, as it will be very difficult to play!

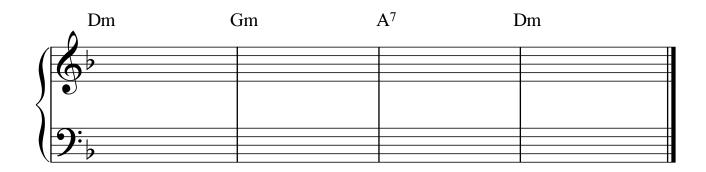
Add block chord harmony to the following phrase, with two chords per bar:

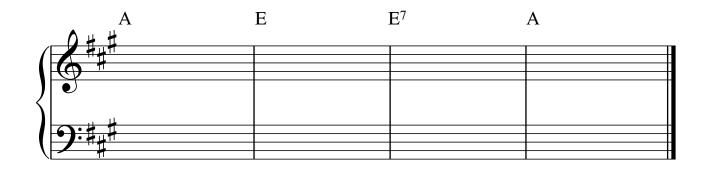


Practice Writing Piano Style Harmony

Practice writing block chord harmony with two chords per bar for piano to the following chord progressions:







| Bm | Em | Bm | $\mathrm{F}^{\sharp 7}$ | |
|--------------------|----|----|-------------------------|--|
| <u> </u> | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| ∤ • | | | | |
| | | | | |
| ():# _# | | | | |
| | | | | |

Piano Accompaniment Styles

We can now begin to explore a few different styles of piano accompaniment:

#1 - "Show 2"

This is for fast tunes where you'll generally have the left hand playing the root on beat 1 of the bar, and the 5th on beat 3. The right hand plays chords off the beat.



#2 - Latin

In this keyboard acommpaniment style the left hand plays off beat chords.



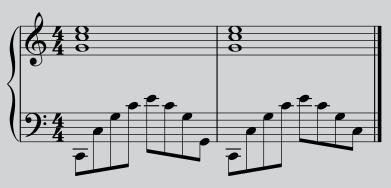
#3 - Jazzy

In this style the right hand plays chords in a sparse fashion, and the left hand often takes the role of the bass doing a walking pattern.

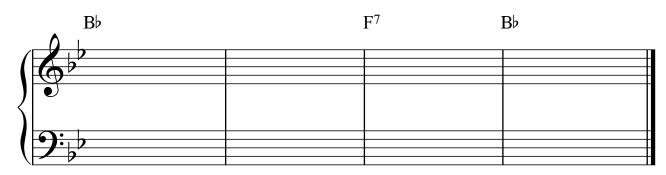


#4 - Ballad

In this style the right hand plays block chords, and the left hand plays the chords as an arpeggio.



Choose one of the above styles and write a piano part using the chords below:



Adding Chords to a Tune

Harmonization is the process of adding chords to a piece of music.

The easiest type of harmony uses just the three primary triads (chord I, IV and V) as well as V7 to harmonize the tune.

Steps to adding chords to a tune:

- Step 1 Determine the key.
- Step 2 Write out the primary chords for that key.
- Step 3 Work out the harmonic rhythm of the music, that is: How often the chords change.
- Step 4 Choose appropriate chords based on the notes in the melody.
- Step 5 Write an accompaniment pattern voicing the chords appropriately.

A worked example: "You Are My Sunshine"

Let's say we have the task of writing a piano part to the traditional song "You Are My Sunshine". We've been given the melody, and nothing else.

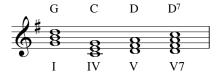
The melody looks like this:

You Are My Sunshine



Step 1: The key is G Major. We can see that from the key signature & the fact that the song ends on a "G".

Step 2: G major primary chords are:



Step 3: This piece is quite fast, so it does not need to change chords very often. Even one chord per bar would be too fast for this piece.

Step 4:

The anacrusis does not need a chord at all, so the chords will start at bar 1, with a tonic chord G. The "B"s and "G's" fit with that chord, and the A sharp is simply a passing inflecion in the melody, that doesn't need a chord change.

The first change will come at bar 5, where the C and E in the melody suggest a C chord, chord IV

Bar 7 has a B in the melody again, so chord I will work again.

Bar 9 goes back to an E, so a C chord will fit again.

Bar 11 goes back to G

The A's in bar 14 suggest a D or D7 chord, which would be a good perfect cadence finishing on G in bar 15.

Adding Chords to a Tune: A Worked Example

You Are My Sunshine



Step 5. Writing out the harmony in suitable piano style.

As this is in alla breve time, a "show 2" style would probably be appropriate, with the root and 5th bass notes, and off beat chords in the right hand. Notice how we have still kept the right hand chords moving as smoothly as possible, keeping common tones where we can.

You Are My Sunshine



"Three Chord Tunes" for Harmonizing

Using separate manuscript paper, harmonize and write a piano accompaniment for the following traditional tunes using just chords I, IV, V and V7:

1. When the Saints:

This tune can be harmonized simply, or in a more complicated fashion. In this simplest version there is no chord change at all until you get to the "D" in bar 7.

When the Saints go Marching in



2. Jingle Bells:

Hint: When harmonizing this tune don't get tricked in bar 6 by the fact that the first note isn't part of the chord for the whole bar. You still change chord on beat one of the bar, but the F is called a "suspension". Bar 6 should be harmonized with a C chord, and the F simply resolves itself by falling to the E on beat 2, which is part of the chord for the bar. The same thing happens in bar 7 with a different chord, and then again in bar 14.

Jingle Bells

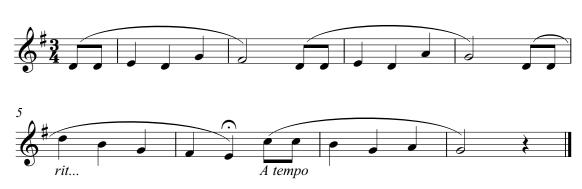


More "Three Chord Tunes" for Harmonizing

3. Happy Birthday:

Just like in "Jingle Bells" do not get tricked by the suspensions in this piece either. Bar 1 obviously needs a tonic chord, and the E is just a suspension resolving down to the D. The same thing happens in Bar 3, but this time with the dominant chord. Because it slows down in Bar 5, and pauses on the second beat of bar 6 you can if you wish have two chords on the first two beats of bar 6.

Happy Birthday



4. Camptown Races:

Camptown Races



Transposition

Transposition means to raise or lower all of the notes of a piece of music to play it in another key, higher or lower than the original.

Sometimes singers and instrumentalists may need pieces transposed to suit their range, and some instruments require their music to be transposed.

This is an example of transposition:

This is the original in D Major:



Here it has been transposed down one tone to C Major:



Transpose the following music down one tone:



Transpose the following music up one tone:



Transposition Practice

Transpose the following music up a perfect fifth:



Transpose the following music up a perfect fourth:



Transpose the following music up one tone:



Transpose the following music up one semitone:



Transposing Chords

Whenever you transpose a tune, you must also transpose the chord symbols that go along with the tune.

For example, Happy Birthday in F Major looks like this:

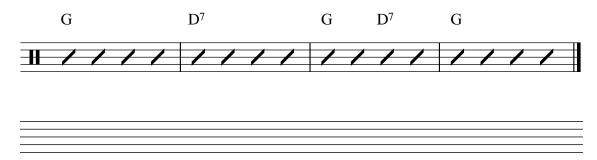


Notice when transposed a tone higher into G Major the chords also change.

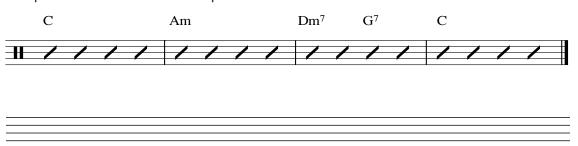


Practice transposing these chord sequences into another key. This is typical of the type of chord chart a guitarist would read:

Transpose this chord chart down a tone:



Transpose this chord chart down a perfect fourth:



Transpose this melody and chords a tone higher:



Transposing for Clarinet or Trumpet in B flat

The **Clarinet** and the **Trumpet** are both **transposing instruments**. This means that their music is written in a different key from the sounding pitch.

Musicians say these instruments are in "B flat" because the notes that they play sound one tone lower than written, i.e. if you play a C on the trumpet, you hear a B flat.

This means that all music for Clarinet and Trumpet to play needs to be transposed **one tone higher** to sound correctly while other musicians are playing.

Transpose this piece for a trumpet in B flat:

Trumpet Voluntary Jeremiah Clarke Fine D C al fine

Transposing for Alto Saxophone in E flat

The Alto Saxophone is also a transposing instrument, but this time in E flat.

That means that when you play a C on the saxophone, you hear an E flat, a major sixth lower than written.

Music for Alto Saxophone therefore needs to be written up a major sixth, in order to be heard correctly with other musicians.

Transpose this piece for a saxophone in E flat:

Greensleeves



Section 9

General Knowledge

Music Terminology

| The international language for music terms is | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| When we talk about the speed of music we talk about its, which means 'time' and the plural of which is | | |
| When we discuss the volume of r | music we talk about | |
| New Italian terms for level three: | | |
| Italian Term | Definition | |
| attaca | go on at once | |
| cantabile | in a singing style | |
| con forza | with force | |
| con anima | with feeling | |
| con brio | with spirit | |
| con moto | with movement | |
| tranquillo | calmly | |
| risoluto | with resolution | |
| ben marcato | well marked | |
| | | |
| calando | getting softer and slower | |

Write the meaning for the following Italian terms, learned in level two:

| Legato | |
|----------------|--|
| Staccato | |
| Mezzo Staccato | |
| Cantabile | |
| Maestoso | |
| Sostenuto | |
| Leggiero | |
| Sempre | |
| Poco | |
| Poco a poco | |
| Molto | |
| Senza | |

*Refer to level two, page 51 of this theory course if needed.

Italian Terms for Tempi

Fill in the gaps in this table of Italian terms for Tempi*:

| Italian Term | Definition | |
|--------------|--|--|
| Largamente | broadly | |
| Larghetto | rather broadly | |
| Largo | slow, broad | |
| | slow (and Stately - literally "at ease") | |
| Andante | | |
| | at a moderate pace | |
| Allegro | | |
| | a little faster than allegro | |
| Vivace | | |
| | lively, brisk | |
| Presto | | |
| Prestissimo | extremely fast, or as fast as possible | |
| Con moto | with movement | |
| Accelerando | | |
| | gradually becoming slower | |
| | immediately slower, held back | |
| Allargando | | |
| Piu Mosso | | |
| | slower | |
| A Tempo | | |

Write these Italian terms in order of speed from slow to very fast:

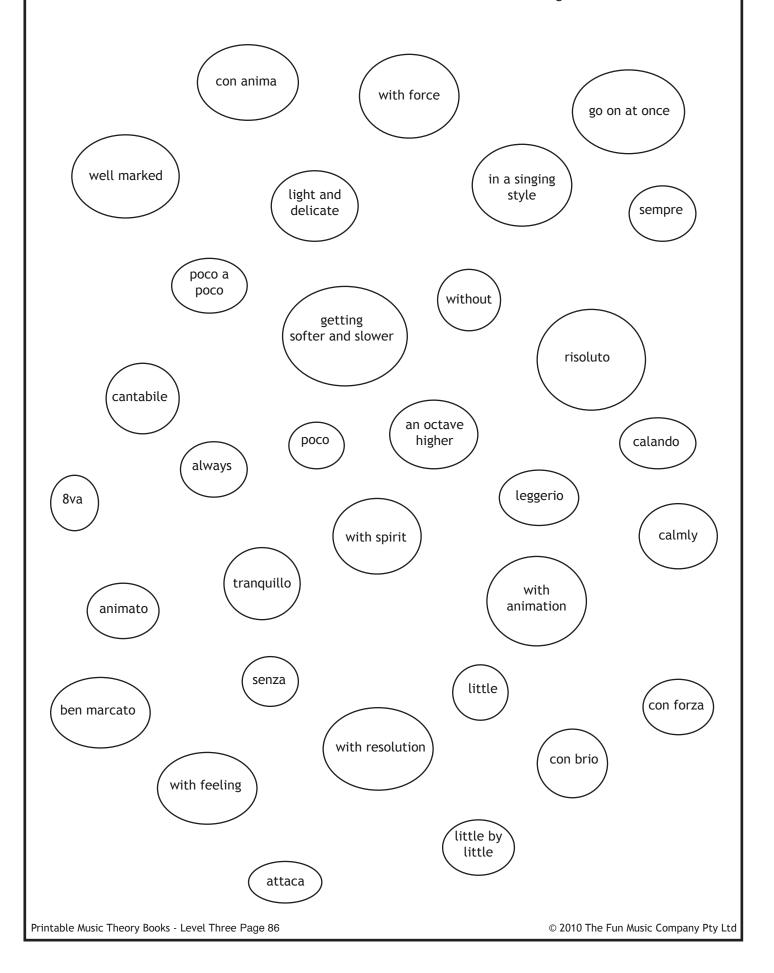
| 1 Andante | 1 |
|----------------|----|
| 2 Allegretto | 2 |
| 3 Presto | 3 |
| 4 Vivace | 4 |
| 5 Adagio | 5 |
| 6 Lento | 6 |
| 7 Moderato | 7 |
| 8 Vivo | 8 |
| 9 Allegro | 9 |
| 10 Prestissimo | 10 |

*Refer to level two, page 50 of this theory course if needed.

Printable Music Theory Books - Level Three Page 85

Italian Terms Bubble Game

Draw a line from a each bubble with an Italian term to the bubble with its meaning



Reference Answers for "Fill in the Blanks"

This book contains quite a few revision exercises, which are covered in more detail in Levels One and Two of this course. If you find yourself looking up the answers on this page, then read more about the topic by referring to the suggested page numbers in the earlier levels.

| Page | | Answers to "Fill in the Blanks" | Learn More about this topic: |
|---------|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Page 4 | Notes in treble and bass | stave, five, four, brace, grand | Level One pages 4, 9 |
| Page 5 | Ledger Lines | Ledger, True | level One page 10 |
| Page 9 | Accidentals | sharp, flat, measurebar, natural, key | Level One page 12, 13 |
| Page 13 | Dotted Notes and Rests | increases, half, itself, rests | Level One page 35 |
| Page 14 | Time Signatures | compound, simple, compound. The top number indicates how many beats there are in a bar The bottom number indicates the note value which represents one beat. false. | Level Two pages 37-44 |
| Page 15 | Tuplets | Tuplet, different, triplet, three | Level Two page 46 |
| Page 22 | Perfect Intervals | Interval, Perfect, hamonic, melodic | Level Two, page 5, 27 |
| Page 23 | Major Intervals | major, perfect, perfect, major | Level Two, page 24 |
| Page 24 | Minor Intervals | Do Not, one less | Level Two, page 25 |
| Page 30 | Major Scales | 3rd and 4th, 7th and 8th | Level One, Page 17 |
| Page 35 | Major/Minor Keys | relative, key signature, minor third, major sixth | Level Two, Page 17 & 18 |
| Page 40 | Natural Minor Scales | no (or 0), 2nd and 3rd, and 5th and 6th | level Two, Page 19 |
| Page 41 | Harmonic Minor Scale | most, same, seventh, leading, accidental, 2nd & 3rd, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th | Level Two, Page 20 |
| Page 51 | Triads | triad, root | Level One, Page 26 |
| Page 84 | Music Terminology | Italian, tempo, tempi, dynamics | Level Two Pages 50-51 |

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