

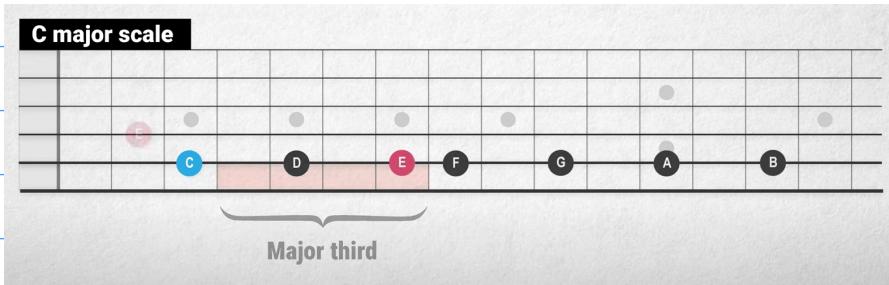
Chord Theory Part 1 - Triads

Intervals that you should know

1. The 3rd interval :

- Major third :

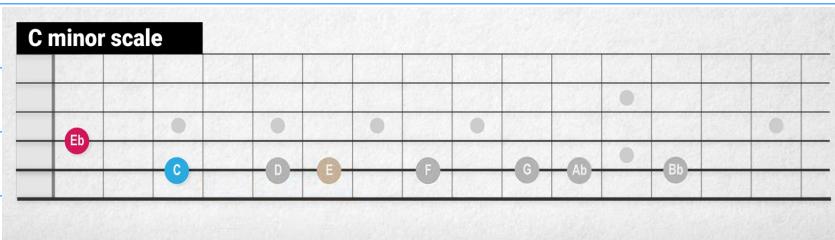
A distance of two whole steps. Creates a happy sound



Also can be seen as the distance between the first & the third note of a diatonic scale.

- Minor third:

A distance of 1.5 steps. Creates a sad/dark sound



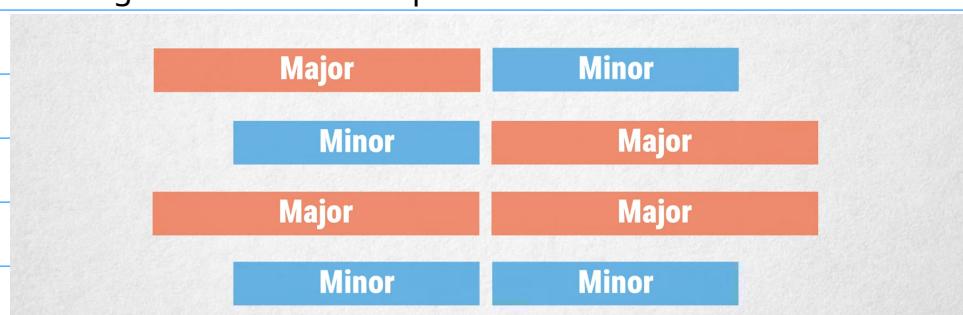
Also can be seen as the distance between the first & the third note of a diatonic minor scale.

2. The Fifth interval :

Also can be seen as the distance between the first & the fifth note of a diatonic scale.

It has three versions - The perfect 5th, diminished 5th & the augmented 5th

- The perfect fifth - 3.5 steps. Musically it is said to have a consonant sound
- The diminished fifth - 3 steps. It has tension/eerie. It has a dissonant sound
- Augmented fifth - 4 steps.



Triad is the minimum number of 3 unique notes to be considered a chord

Less notes is considered an interval & more notes is considered an extended chord

Triad	Interval	Extended chord	
T A B	0 2 3	T A B	0 2 3

Triads are formed by stacking two types of thirds

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Major triad/chord: Major 3rd + Minor 3rd | 1 - 3 - 5 |
| 2. Minor triad/chord: Minor 3rd + Major 3rd | 1 - b3 - 5 |
| 3. Augmented chord: Major 3rd + Major 3rd | 1 - 3 - 5# |
| 4. Diminished chord: Minor 3rd + Minor 3rd | 1 - b3 - b5 |

The figure displays four horizontal guitar neck diagrams, each representing a different chord built on the root note C:

- C major**: The first diagram shows a standard C major chord (C, E, G) with notes highlighted in blue circles.
- C minor**: The second diagram shows a C minor chord (C, Eb, G) with notes highlighted in blue circles.
- C diminished**: The third diagram shows a C diminished chord (C, Eb, Gb) with notes highlighted in blue circles.
- C augmented**: The fourth diagram shows a C augmented chord (C, E, G#) with notes highlighted in blue circles.

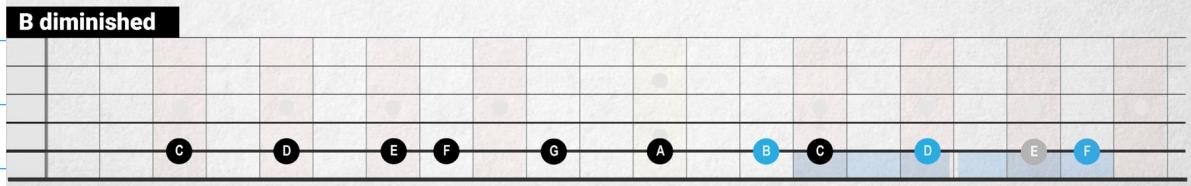
Each diagram consists of six vertical frets and two horizontal strings. The notes are represented by black dots on the strings, with blue circles indicating the specific notes of each chord. The background of each diagram is a light grey grid.

Harmonizing the C major scale

Building triads/chords on every note of a major scale - Harmonizing a scale

Harmonizing the C major scale

c — d — e — f — g — a — b
C Dm Em F G Am Bdim



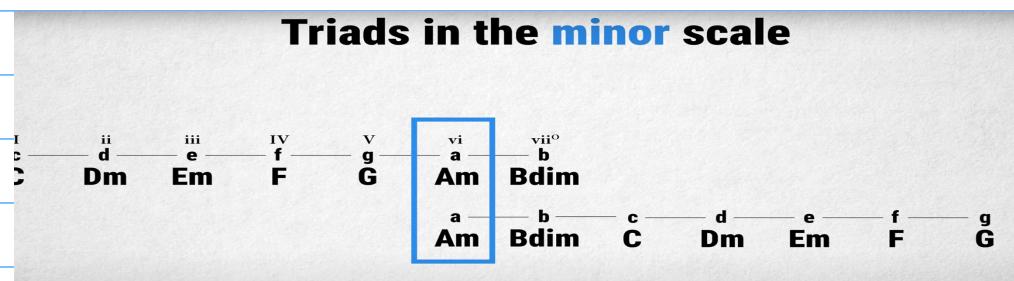
Scale degrees

The first note of a scale is known as tonic

I ii iii IV V vi vii^o
C Dm Em F G Am Bdim

How to get the minor scale?

Go to the 6th and retain everything



Therefore, the major scale has a diminished on the 7th, whereas the minor has a diminished on the 2nd

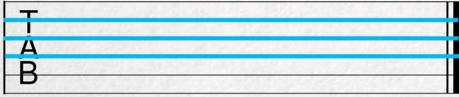
To get to augmented chord, you'd have to go to the harmonic minor or the melodic minor.

These triads can be played in three places - Root on the 1st string , root on the 2nd string & root on the first.

Triad shapes



Shapes on strings **1, 2 and 3**



Shapes on strings **2, 3 and 4**



Shapes on strings **3, 4 and 5**

Altered chords: Suspended chords

Here the 3rd in the triad is replaced or "suspended" with the 2nd or the 4th.

They are notated as sus2 or sus4 chords