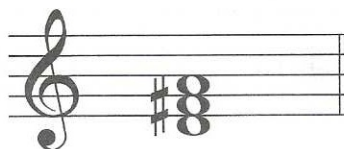


## LESSON 5

### MAJOR, MINOR, AND DIMINISHED TRIADS

A **TRIAD** is a three note chord, based on the interval of a third.

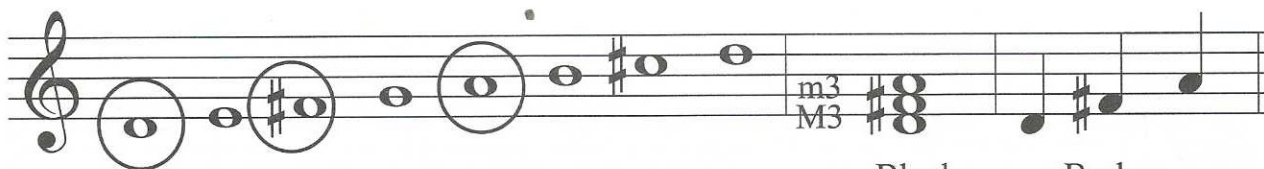


**D MAJOR TRIAD**

**MAJOR TRIADS** are made up of the first, third, and fifth notes of the Major scale that has the same letter name. The three notes are called the **ROOT**, **THIRD**, and **FIFTH**.

The lowest note of a Major triad in root position (with the notes each a third apart) names the triad.

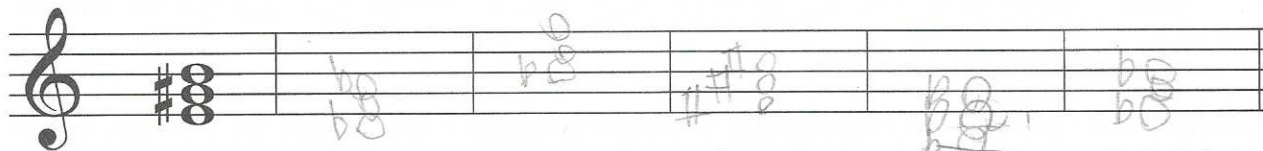
There is a Major 3rd between the root and the third, and a minor third between the third and the fifth.



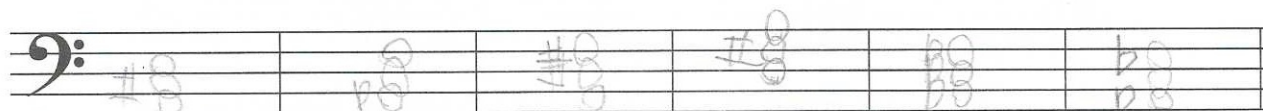
**D MAJOR SCALE**

Block      Broken  
**D MAJOR TRIAD**

1. Draw each of the following triads. The first one is given.



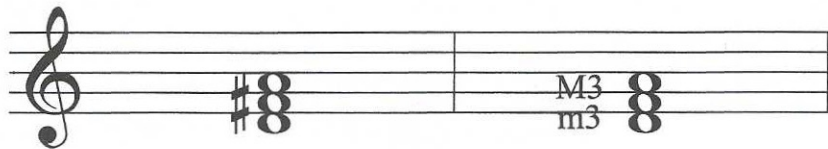
E Major    D $\flat$  Major    B $\flat$  Major    F $\sharp$  Major    C $\flat$  Major    E $\flat$  Major



A Major    B $\flat$  Major    B Major    D Major    G $\flat$  Major    A $\flat$  Major

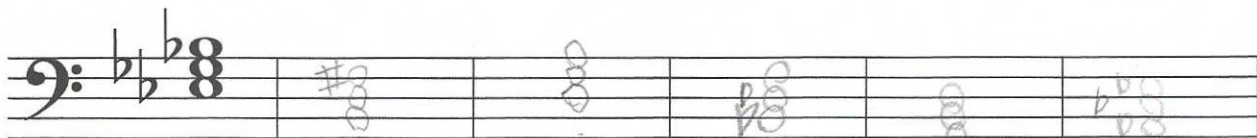
To change a Major triad into a **MINOR** triad, lower the the third a half step. Minor triads have the same sharps or flats as the minor key signature that has the same letter name.

There is a minor 3rd between the root and the third, and a Major 3rd between the third and the fifth.

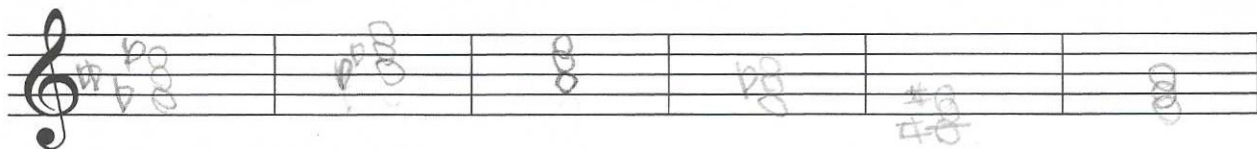


**D MAJOR TRIAD    D MINOR TRIAD**

2. Draw each of the following minor triads. The first one is given. To lower a flat a half step, draw a double flat:  $\flat\flat$ .



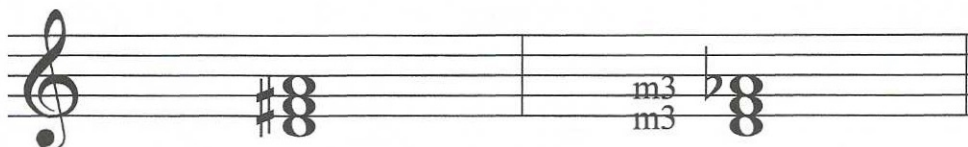
**eb minor    bb minor    d minor    bbb minor    g minor    ab minor**



**gb minor    bb minor    a minor    f minor    c# minor    e minor**

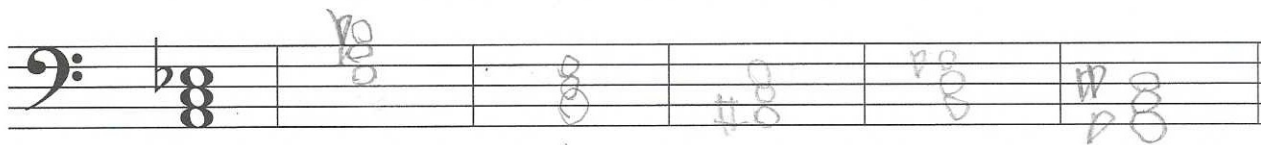
To change a Major triad into a **DIMINISHED** triad, lower the third and the the fifth a half-step.

The intervals between the root and the third and between the third and the fifth are minor thirds.

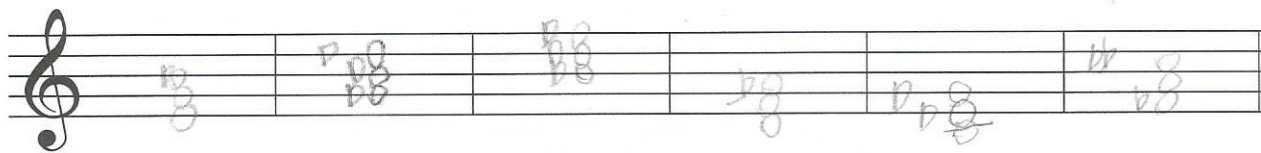


**D MAJOR TRIAD    D DIMINISHED TRIAD**

3. Draw each of the following triads. The first one is given. "dim." means "diminished."

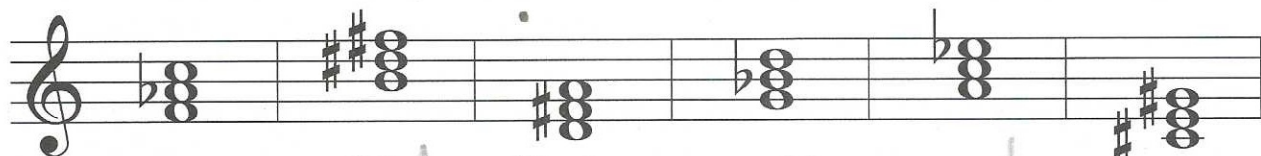


a dim.    e dim.    b dim.    f# dim.    g dim.    eb dim.



e dim.    g# dim.    bb dim.    d dim.    c dim.    ab dim.

4. Name each of the following triads with its root (letter name) and quality (Major, minor, or diminished). The first one is given.



f minor

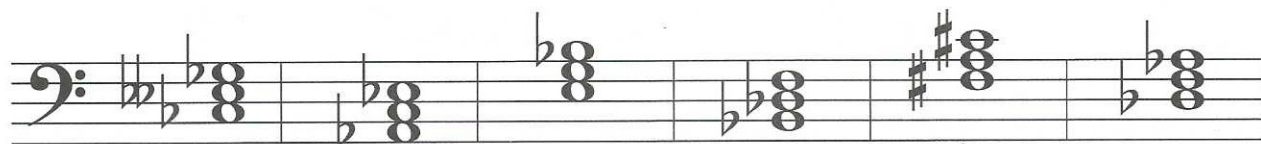
BM

DM

gm

ad

c#m



cb M

am

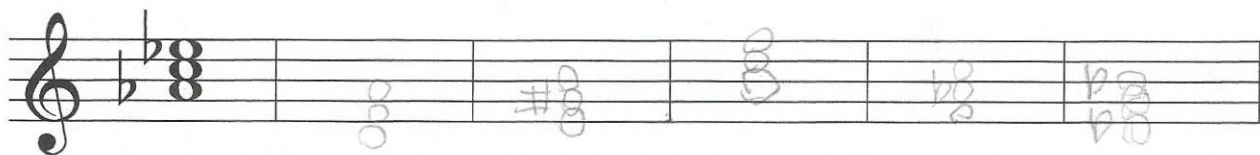
ed

bbm

f#m

Dbm

5. Draw each of the following triads.



A $\flat$  Major    d minor    E Major    d diminished    f minor    E $\flat$  Major



G Major    A Major    e $\flat$  minor    c $\sharp$  diminished    F $\sharp$  Major    e minor