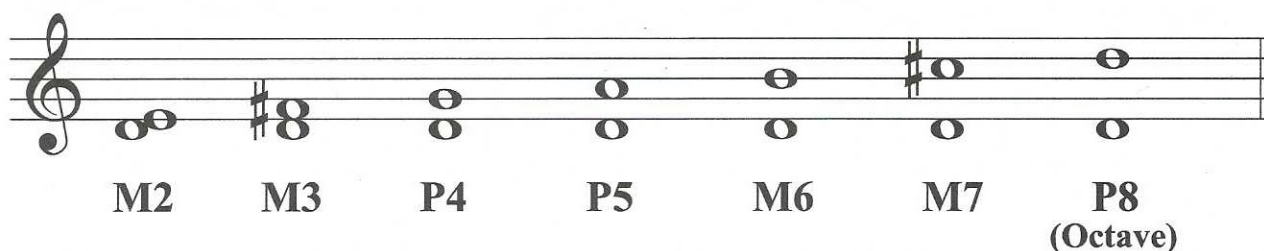


LESSON 4 INTERVALS

An **INTERVAL** is the distance between two notes. Intervals are named with numbers.

When naming intervals, count the two notes that make the interval, and all the lines and spaces, or all the letter names, between the two notes.

If the top note of the interval is within the key of the bottom note, the interval is Major or Perfect. 2nds, 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths are Major, and 4ths, 5ths, and octaves (8ths) are Perfect.

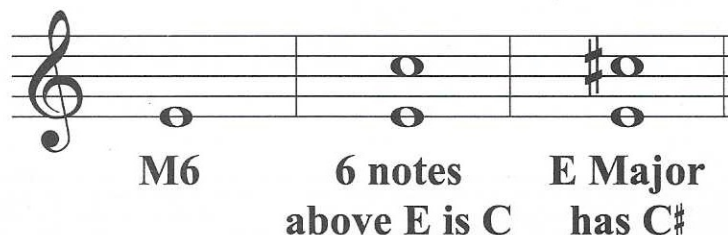


To draw an interval above a note:

1. Determine the key signature for the lower note.
2. Add any accidentals from the key signature to the upper note.

Example: Major 6th above E

1. 6 notes above E is C.
2. E Major has F#, C#, G#, D#
3. Add a sharp to C to make the interval Major.

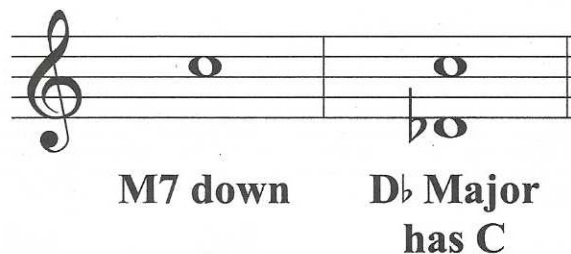


To draw an interval below a note:

1. Determine all possibilities the note could be.
2. Determine which of those notes is the correct one for the quality of the interval.

Example: Major 7th below C

1. The three possibilities are D, D \flat , and D#.
2. The key of D \flat Major has C, D Major has C#, and a M7 above D# would be C double sharp.
3. The answer is D \flat .



1. Name each of these intervals with its quality (Major or Perfect) and number. The first one is given.

Handwritten labels for the intervals in exercise 1:

Treble staff: P4, M3, P8, M2, P4, M6, M7, P5

Bass staff: M6, M3, P8, P5, P4, M7, M2, M7

2. Complete these intervals. The first one is given.

M6 up M3 down P5 up P4 down M2 down M7 up P8 up M3 down

P8 up M3 down P4 up M2 down P5 up P4 up M6 down M7 down

If a Major 2nd, 3rd, 6th, or 7th is made smaller by lowering the top note or raising the bottom note a half step, without changing the letter name of either note, the interval becomes minor.

Intervals and their qualities:

M6, m6, m6, M3, m3, m3

3. Name each of these intervals with its quality (Major, Perfect, or minor) and number .
The first one is given.

m6 M2 m3 m6 P4 m7 m2 M2

M7 m7 M3 P5 P6 m7 m3 P6

4. Complete these intervals.

M2 down m6 up M3 down P5 up M7 up m2 up m7 down P4 down

M3 up m3 down M2 up P4 up P5 down M6 down P4 up P8 down

To name an interval in a composition:

- Draw the sharps or flats from the key signature or from earlier in the measure before the notes.
- Determine the number.
- Using the key signature of the **low note of the interval**, determine the quality (Major, Perfect, or minor).

a. Draw C#

b. 6th

c. Use E Major key signature;
E to C# is a Major 6th

5. Name the circled intervals in each of the following phrases.

a. From Clementi: *Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 3.*

m3 m2 m2 m6 P4 P5 P8

b. From J.S. Bach: *Short Prelude No. 5.*

m2 m3 m2 P4 m3 m3

c. From Beethoven: *Variations on a Swiss Song.*

P5 P6 P4 m2 m3 m3 m2 m5