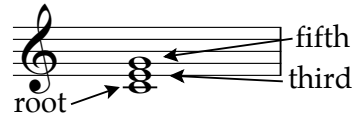


Triads and Inversions

INTRODUCING TRIADS

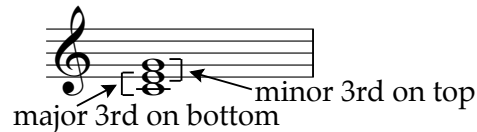
Triad
Root, Third, Fifth

A **triad** is a three-note chord built of **two third intervals** stacked on top of each other. The three notes are called **root**, **third** and **fifth** from bottom to top. In the chord below, the two third intervals are C to E and E to G.



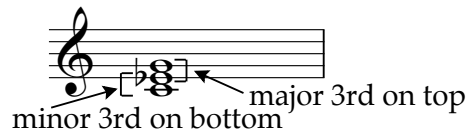
Major triads

A **major triad** has a **major third** on the bottom and a **minor third** on top. The chord that occurs on the first step of a **major** key is a **major triad**.



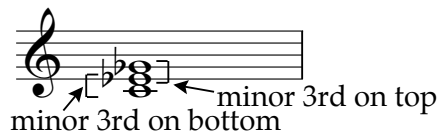
Minor triads

A **minor triad** has a **minor third** on the bottom and a **major third** on top. The chord that occurs on the first step of a **minor** key is a **minor triad**.



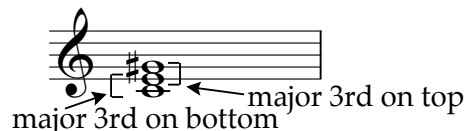
Diminished triads

A **diminished triad** is a stack of two **minor thirds**.



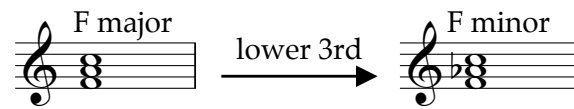
Augmented triads

An **augmented triad** is a stack of two **major thirds**.

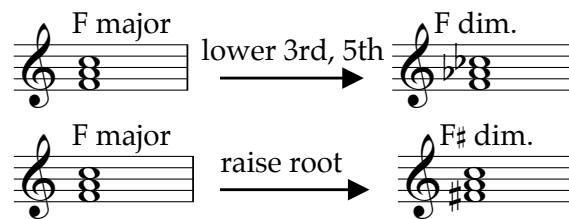


Spelling minor triads

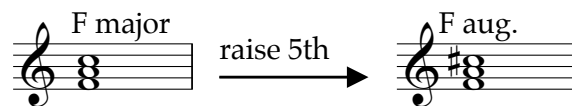
To spell a **minor triad**, start with a major triad, then **lower the 3rd using an accidental** to make a minor triad.

**Spelling diminished triads**

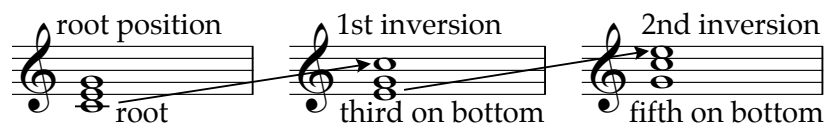
To spell a **diminished triad**, start with a major triad, then **lower the 3rd and 5th** to make a **diminished triad**. Another option is to start with a major triad, then **raise the root** to make a diminished triad.

**Spelling augmented triads**

To spell an **augmented triad**, spell a major triad, then **raise the 5th** (only) to make an augmented triad.

**Root position
First inversion
Second inversion**

Root position means the **root** is the lowest note. When the **third** is the lowest note, the triad is in **first inversion**. When the **fifth** is the lowest note, the triad is in **second inversion**.

**Voicing and inversion**

Chord voicing refers to the ordering of the notes (root, third, fifth) above the lowest note. Changing the chord voicing does not change the inversion.

