

Triads and Chords

Quick Study of Triad Constructions

Triad: is a three-tone chord consisting of superimposed thirds. The bottom note (in 1st position) is the root; the middle note is the third and the top note is the 5th (scale intervals of the given Key).

5th
3rd
Root

C Major
Cm minor
Caug⁺ augmented
Cdim^o diminished

Root Positions & Inversions

Inversions: the Root (bass) of the chord moves in 3rds or 5ths while respelling the Triad in an alternate form.

Triad Inversions are also commonly referred as "Slash Chords".

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1st (Root) Position
2nd Position
3rd Position

C/E
C/G

Slash Chords: used by Guitarists & Keyboardists.
Top Letter is the Chord Spelling. (Keys: Right Hand)
Bottom Letter is the Bass Root of Chord. (Keys: Left Hand)

Examples of Triad Inversions and Chord Forms

Major
minor
diminished
Augmented

1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd

4
8
12
16
20

24

Major: B, B/D[#], B/F[#]
 minor: Bm, Bm/D[#], Bm/F[#]
 diminished: Bdim, Bdim/D[#], Bdim/F[#]
 Augmented: B^{aug}, B^{aug}/D[#], B^{aug}/F[#]

1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd

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Major: F[#], F[#]/A[#], F[#]/C[#]
 minor: F[#]m, F[#]m/A[#], F[#]m/C[#]
 diminished: F[#]dim, F[#]dim/A[#], F[#]dim/C[#]
 Augmented: F[#]^{aug}, F[#]^{aug}/A[#], F[#]^{aug}/C[#]

1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd

32

Major: C[#], C[#]/F, C[#]/G[#]
 minor: C[#]m, C[#]m/F, C[#]m/G[#]
 diminished: C[#]dim, C[#]dim/F, C[#]dim/G[#]
 Augmented: C[#]^{aug}, C[#]^{aug}/F, C[#]^{aug}/G[#]

1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd

36

Major: F, F/A, F/C
 minor: Fm, Fm/A, Fm/C
 diminished: Fdim, Fdim/A, Fdim/C
 Augmented: F^{aug}, F^{aug}/A, F^{aug}/C

1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd

40

Major: B^b, B^b/D, B^b/F
 minor: B^bm, B^bm/D, B^bm/F
 diminished: B^bdim, B^bdim/D, B^bdim/F
 Augmented: B^b^{aug}, B^b^{aug}/D, B^b^{aug}/F

1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd

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Major: E^b, E^b/G, E^b/B^b
 minor: E^bm, E^bm/G, E^bm/B^b
 diminished: E^bdim, E^bdim/G, E^bdim/B^b
 Augmented: E^b^{aug}, E^b^{aug}/G, E^b^{aug}/B^b

1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd

48

Major: A^b, A^b/C, A^b/E^b
 minor: A^bm, A^bm/C, A^bm/E^b
 diminished: A^bdim, A^bdim/C, A^bdim/E^b
 Augmented: A^b^{aug}, A^b^{aug}/C, A^b^{aug}/E^b

1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd 1st 2nd 3rd

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Major				minor				diminished				Augmented			
D ^b	D ^b /F	D ^b /A ^b		D ^b m	D ^b m/F	D ^b m/A ^b		D ^b dim	D ^b dim/F	D ^b dim/A ^b		D ^b aug	D ^b aug/F	D ^b aug/A ^b	
1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd	

56

Major				minor				diminished				Augmented			
G ^b	G ^b /B ^b	G ^b /D ^b		G ^b m	G ^b m/B ^b	G ^b m/D ^b		G ^b dim	G ^b dim/B ^b	G ^b dim/D ^b		G ^b aug	G ^b aug/B ^b	G ^b aug/D ^b	
1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd	

Cb = B natural

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Major				minor				diminished				Augmented			
B	B/E ^b	B/G ^b		Bm	Bm/E ^b	Bm/G ^b		Bdim	Bdim/E ^b	Bdim/G ^b		Baug	Baug/E ^b	Baug/G ^b	
1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd		1st	2nd	3rd	

Your Turn: Spell the notes.

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Gm	C/E	A ^b dim	E ^a aug	G/D	Dm/A	B/D [#]
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Gm/D	Dm	D/F [#]	C [#] m/G	B ^b m/F	A ^b dim/C	Caug/E	Gm/D
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Name that chord.

79

85

Name the Interval.

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