

Building Triads

Two staves of musical notation showing triads. The first staff contains Cmaj, Cmin, Cdim, and Caug. The second staff contains Dmaj, Dmin, Ddim, and Daug. Each triad is represented by a treble clef, a key signature, and three notes on a staff.

The Rules for Building Triads

1. Write the Root, 3rd and 5th notes of the scale on the staff (don't worry about accidentals, just count up the white notes to get them).

2. Work out what the major triad would be by working out the key signature for the note that is the root (or 1).

#KEYS – Go down a semitone to get the last sharp in the key signature. Order of sharps: FCGDAEB

bKEYS – The key note (or root or 1) is the last but one flat in the key signature. Order of flats: BEADGCF

3. Add the accidentals to your triad to make a major triad. 4. Now compare that to the triad you need to make and alter it to get what you need.

REMEMBER THAT FLATTENING A NOTE DOESN'T MEAN PUT A FLAT IN FRONT IT MEANS LOWER IT BY A SEMITONE

The triads are built up of these intervals:

MAJOR - ROOT MAJOR 3rd PERFECT 5th

MINOR - ROOT MINOR 3rd PERFECT 5th

DIMINISHED - ROOT MINOR 3rd DIMINISHED 5th

AUGMENTED - ROOT MAJOR 3rd AUGMENTED 5th

TASK: Write in the following triads:

Staff 1: Amaj, Amin, Adim, Aaug

Staff 2: Emaj, Emin, Edim, Eaug

Staff 3: A^bmaj, A^bmin, A^bdim, A^baug

Staff 4: F[#]maj, F[#]min, F[#]dim, F[#]aug

TASK: Identify the following triads:

Staff 5: Bdim, Gaug, Fmaj, Amin