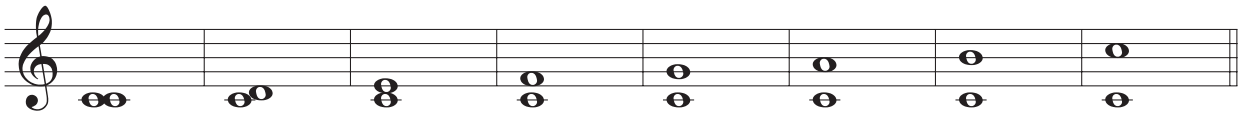
LESSON 5

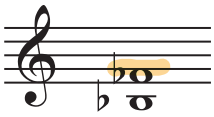
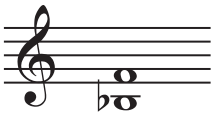
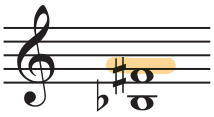
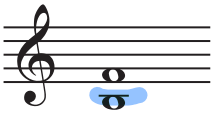
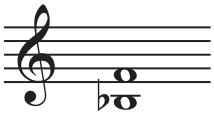
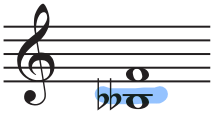
Date: _____

An interval is the distance between two notes. The size of the interval is determined by counting the distance from the lower note to the higher note. The quality of the interval depends on the scale from which the interval is found and any accidentals that impact the notes of the interval. There are five qualities of intervals: perfect (P), major (+), minor (–), augmented (×), and diminished (○).

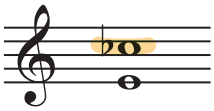
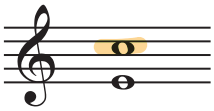
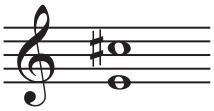
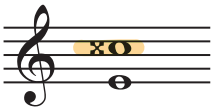
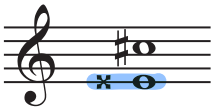
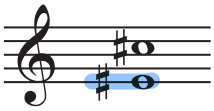
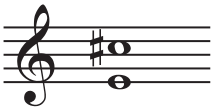
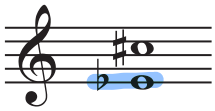
Recall: Perfect and major intervals are intervals formed between the tonic of a major scale and any other note of the scale. Unisons, fourths, fifths, and octaves are classified as perfect intervals and seconds, thirds, sixths, and sevenths are classified as major intervals.



The three remaining interval qualities: minor, augmented, and diminished, are obtained by chromatically altering perfect and major intervals.

Diminished (○)	Perfect (P)	Augmented (×)
one semitone smaller	interval that originates between the tonic and U, 4, 5, or 8 of a major scale	one semitone larger
 ○5	 P5	 ×5
 ○5	 P5	 ×5

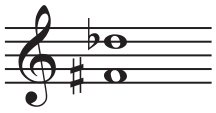
Note: an interval can be made larger by raising the upper note, or by lowering the lower note. Similarly, an interval can be made smaller by lowering the upper note, or by raising the lower note.

Diminished (○)	Minor (–)	Major (+)	Augmented (×)
two semitones smaller	one semitone smaller	interval that originates between the tonic and 2, 3, 6, or 7 of a major scale	one semitone larger
 ○6	 –6	 +6	 ×6
 ○6	 –6	 +6	 ×6

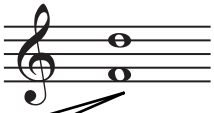
To determine the quality of an interval:

1. consider the interval with no accidentals.
2. consider the bottom note as the tonic of a major scale. (Note: at times it may be more convenient to leave the accidental that is in place on the bottom note if that is a major scale you are more familiar with.)
3. analyze the natural interval and ask if the top note belongs to the major scale of the bottom note;
   if yes – the interval will be perfect or major depending on its size.
   if no – determine if it is smaller or larger than the related perfect or major interval and choose the appropriate quality.
4. Using the quality of the natural interval, add in the given accidentals and track the resulting changes.

Name the following interval.



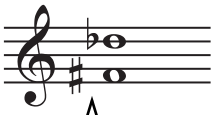
o6



Step 1:
The interval au natural!

Step 2:
The bottom note is F. The key of F+ has one flat: B

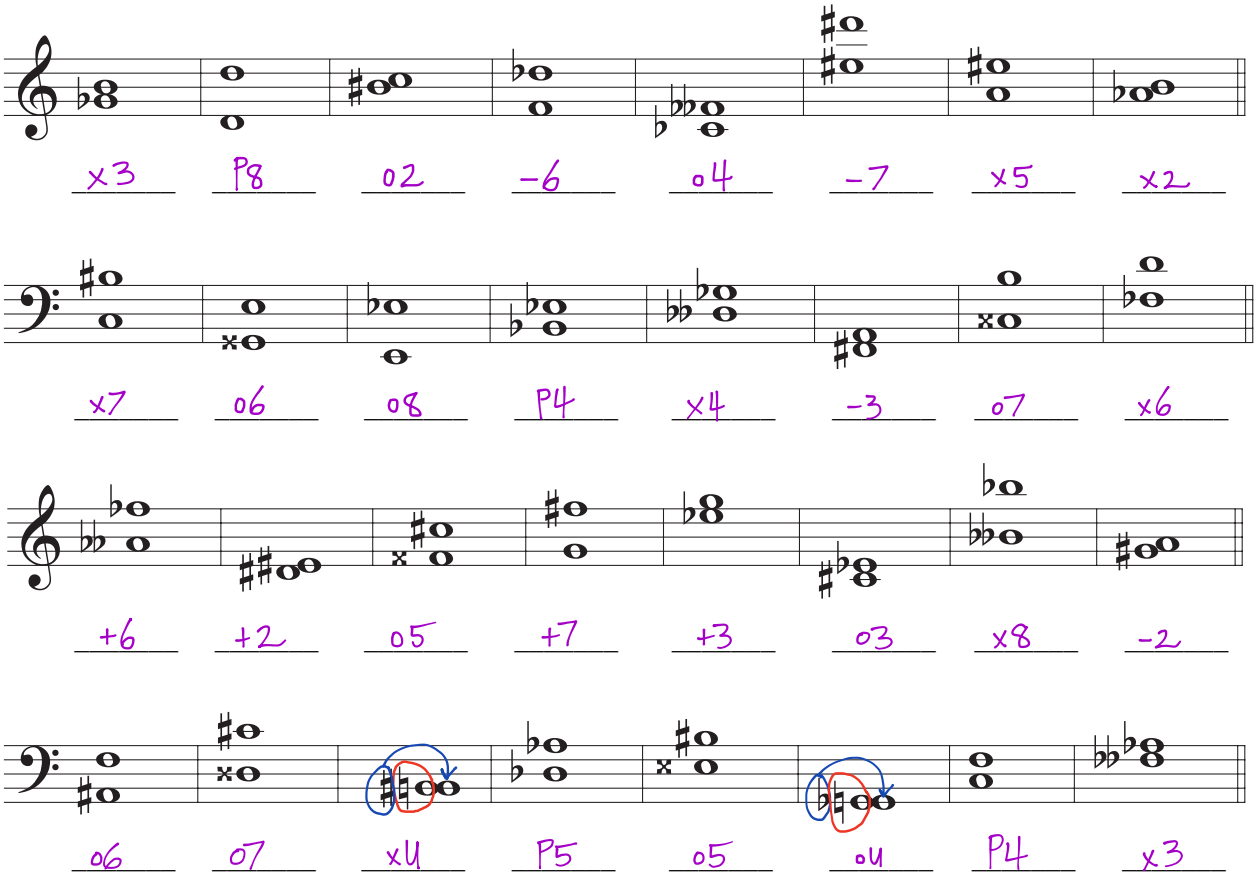
Step 3:
The top note is D. It is the 6th note of the F+ scale. Therefore, the natural interval is a +6.



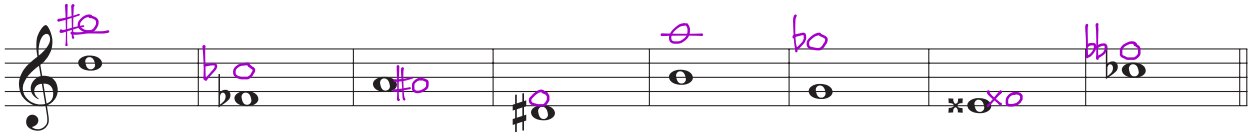
Step 4:
The top note has been lowered by one semitone which turns the + to –6.
The bottom note has be raised by one semitone which turns the –6 to a ○6.

PRACTICE

1. Name the following intervals.



2. Write the following intervals above the given notes.



3. Write the following intervals below the given notes.