

LESSON 11

Date: _____

Triads are the building blocks of harmony. They are built by stacking consecutive thirds on each scale degree of a scale. In Level 5 we will review the triads formed from major and harmonic minor scales.

Recall:

1. Triads have 4 different qualities: major (+), minor (−), diminished (◦), and augmented (×).
2. Triads can be arranged in three positions: root, 1st inversion, and 2nd inversion.
3. Triadic harmony can appear in a variety of ways in music: solid triads (open, close), broken triads, Alberti bass figures, arpeggios, etc.
4. Triads built on major and minor scales have the following qualities:

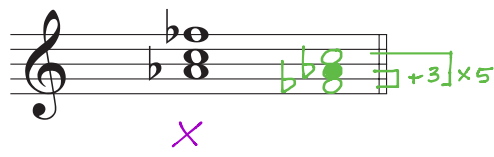
Triad Qualities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Major Scales:	+	−	−	+	+	−	◦
Minor Scales:	−	◦	×	−	+	+	◦

5. Triads can be expressed in written form through the use of combinations of Roman numerals, triad quality characters, and Arabic superscripts.

[For more review on these concepts, refer to Level 4: Lessons 16—18.]

Analyzing Triads in Isolation

Determine the quality of the following triad.



Strategy:

1. rearrange the triad into root position
2. analyze the two intervals with respect to the root (i.e. the third and the fifth)
3. select the appropriate quality based on the following criteria:

+	−	◦	×
P5	P5	◦5	×5
+3	−3	−3	+3
Root	Root	Root	Root

Review the following terms with respect to the above triad.

Root: Fb

Bass: Ab

Position: 1st

Analyzing Triads in Keys

Determine the quality of each of the following triads.

$\checkmark D^b+$
 $\times b^-$ (7th is not raised)
 iii
 A^+
 vii°
 ii°

Strategy:

1. rearrange the triad into root position
2. determine a possible key of the music
3. select the quality based on the key and the scale degree of the root

Representing Triads Using Roman Numerals

Identify the key(s) of each triad then represent them with a corresponding Roman numeral figure. Where two answers are possible, give both.

NA V^b ii vi
 B^b+ g^- G e^-

Strategy:

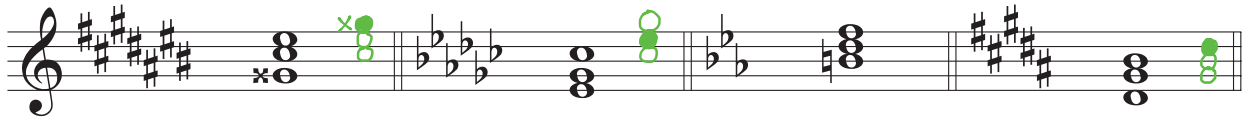
1. rearrange the triad into root position
2. determine the possible key(s) of the music
3. for each key, determine the scale degree of the root (Roman numeral)
4. based on the scale degree, determine the quality of the triad (upper or lowercase Roman numeral)
5. if the triad is in 1st or 2nd inversion, add the appropriate Arabic superscript
6. Note: for diminished and augmented triads, add the appropriate quality character before the Arabic superscript

PRACTICE

1. Determine the quality of each of the following triads.

$-$ \times o $+$ $-$ o

2. Determine the key(s) and corresponding Roman numeral figure(s) for each of the following triads.



key:	C#+	a#-	Gb+	e'-	Eb+	c-	B+	g#-
Roman numeral:	N/A	III ⁺⁶	IV ⁶	VI ⁶	N/A	vii ^o	vi ⁶	i ⁶

3. Write a solid triad in close position for each of the following Roman numeral figures.

