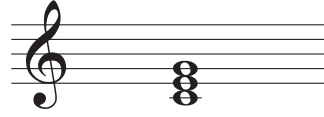
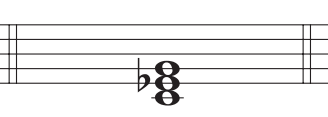




# LESSON 16

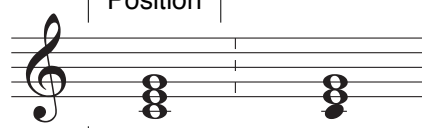
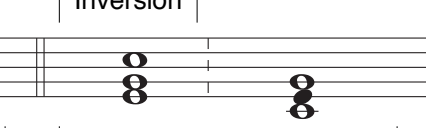
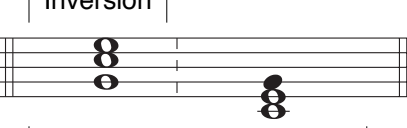
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A chord is any combination of 3 or more notes played together, or played as though they will sound like a unit of harmony (arpeggio, or broken chord). A triad is a specific chord with only 3 notes which can be stacked in consecutive thirds. Triads are the most basic building block of harmony.

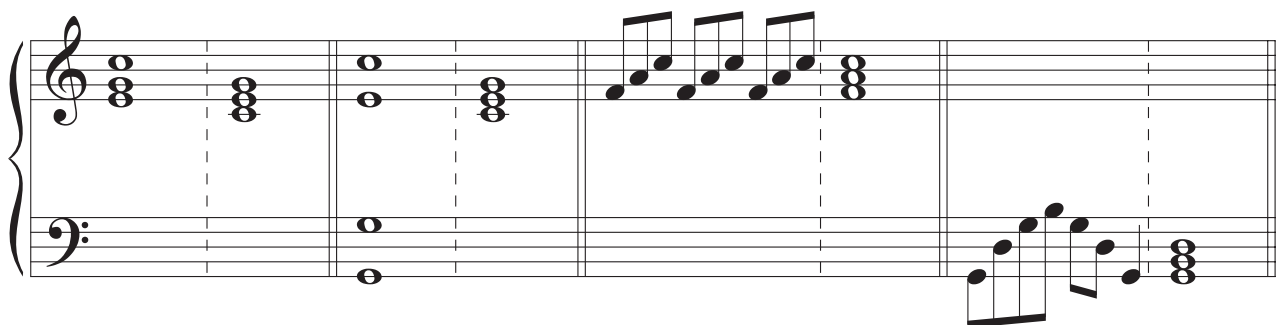
There are four basic types of triads. The following summarizes these triads and their construction.

MAJOR (+)	MINOR (-)	DIMINISHED (o)	AUGMENTED (x)
			
P5 +3 Root	P5 -3 Root	o 5 -3 Root	x 5 +3 Root

Triads can be arranged in three positions: root, first inversion, and second inversion. The position of a triad depends on the relationship between the root of the triad, and the bass note of the triad (the lowest sounding note.)

Root Position	1st Inversion	2nd Inversion
		
The bass note is the root.	The bass note is the third.	The bass note is the fifth.

Triadic harmony can appear in a variety of ways in music. So far in this lesson, solid triads in close position (the three notes of the triad are as close together as possible) have been used. They are the most efficient way to study harmony, however, the ear also perceives triadic harmony with other formats. If harmony is triadic, the music can be reduced to a three-note triad.



- solid triad
- close position
- 1st inversion
- solid chord
- open position
- 2nd inversion
- broken triad
- root position
- broken chord
- root position

- broken chord
- root position

- broken chord called an *Alberti bass*
- root position

- broken chord call an *arpeggio*
- an arpeggio is a type of broken chord where the notes of the chord are played in sequence, without skipping notes
- root position

Note: Broken harmony is often played on instruments like the piano, harp, guitar, etc. where sustained sounds are possible. As a result, the ear perceives all of these notes as one chord or block of harmony. The lowest note determines the position of the extended block of harmony.

## PRACTICE

1. Identify the following triads as either major (+), minor (-), diminished (o), or augmented (x).

2. Write the indicated triad in root position using the information given.

3rd: A      -      5th: C#      +      Root: D      o      5th: D $\flat$       +      5th: E $\flat$       -      3rd: G

3. Reduce each excerpt to a solid, root position triad in closed position. Name the root, bass, type (+/-/ o/x), and position (R/1st/2nd) of each excerpt.

root: E                      A                      Bb

bass: G#                      Eb                      Bb

type: +                      o                      -

position: 1st                      2nd                      R

root: D                      F                      G

bass: D                      C#                      G

type: x                      x                      +

position: R                      2nd                      R

root: A                      Eb                      D

bass: E                      Eb                      D

type: +                      x                      o

position: 2nd                      R                      R