

LESSON 11

Date: _____

Diatonic triads are triads that are built on the seven degrees of a major or minor scale. There are only seven different possible triad spellings, not including accidentals. Memorize these letter patterns.

In Level 3, we will be studying three triads: those that occur on the tonic (1), subdominant (4), and dominant (5) degrees of major and minor scales.

To discover the qualities of diatonic triads, we will consider the triads formed from a major scale, and those formed from a harmonic minor scale. Although triads can be built on natural and melodic minor scales, in Level 3 we will only consider the harmonic form of the minor scale.

Diatonic Triads – Major Scales

Examine the resulting triads formed in C+. This pattern will be identical in every major scale.

A musical staff in treble clef showing seven diatonic triads in C major. The triads are: C major (G, E, C), D minor (A, F, D), E minor (B, G, E), C major (C, A, F), D minor (D, B, G), E minor (E, C, A), and F major (F, D, B). The first, fourth, and fifth triads are circled.

Diatonic Triads – Harmonic Minor Scales

Examine the resulting triads formed in c harmonic –. This pattern will be identical in every harmonic minor scale.

First, we begin with the harmonic minor scale. Note the use of the raised 7th.

A musical staff in treble clef showing the harmonic minor scale: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C#. The notes are written as half notes.

Next, the two consecutive thirds are stacked on each scale degree to form the triad. Notice that the accidentals from the scale are included for each applicable third and fifth in the triad.

A musical staff in treble clef showing seven diatonic triads in c harmonic minor. The triads are: C major (G, E, C), D minor (A, F, D), E minor (B, G, E), C major (C, A, F), D minor (D, B, G), E minor (E, C, A), and F major (F, D, B). The first, fourth, and fifth triads are circled.

Conclusion:

In **MAJOR** scales:

The tonic, subdominant, and dominant triads are _____.

In **minor** scales:

The tonic and subdominant triads are _____,


and the dominant triad is _____.

To build analysis skills, it is more efficient to memorize the above conclusions when analyzing major and minor triads, rather than determining the quality of the third.

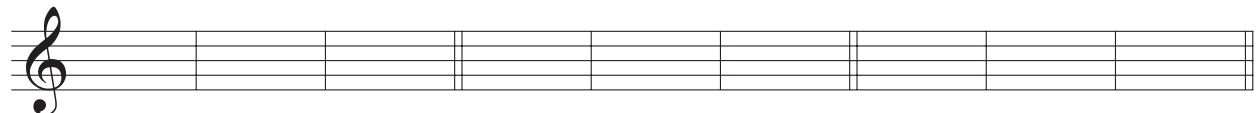
PRACTICE

1. Draw solid tonic, subdominant, and dominant triads in the following keys, using a key signature.

g- E+ e-

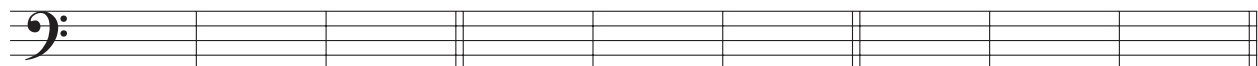


E \flat + c \sharp - D+



2. Draw broken triads (in ascending arpeggio form using eighth notes) on the tonic, subdominant, and dominant scale degree, using a key signature.

f- F+ b-



A \flat + d- C+

