

Tonality (part 2)

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Names of the Triads in Major Scales

If you go back to those triads in the D major scale and successfully name them, the following results will appear:

D Em F#m G A Bm C#^o

Notice that the first, fourth, and fifth triads are majors; the second, third, and sixth are minors; and the seventh is a diminished.

The following is a complete list of the triads built from all 15 major scales:

	Key of C: C Dm Em F G Am B ^o	
Key of G: G Am Bm C D Em F# ^o		Key of F: F Gm Am Bb C Dm E ^o
Key of D: D Em F#m G A Bm C# ^o		Key of Bb: Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm A ^o
Key of A: A Bm C#m D E F#m G# ^o		Key of Eb: Eb Fm Gm Ab Bb Cm D ^o
Key of E: E F#m G#m A B C#m D# ^o		Key of Ab: Ab Bbm Cm Db Eb Fm G ^o
Key of B: B C#m D#m E F# G#m A# ^o		Key of Db: Db Ebm Fm Gb Ab Bbm C ^o
Key of F#: F# G#m A#m B C# D#m E# ^o		Key of Gb: Gb Abm Bbm Cb Db Ebm F ^o
Key of C#: C# D#m E#m F# G# A#m B# ^o		Key of Cb: Cb Dbm Ebm Fb Gb Abm Bb ^o

This list is given only for *reference* now, so don't worry about memorizing it...you *will* memorize much of the information given so far (and to come) very *gradually*, as you are exposed to it more and more, and as you actually find *uses* for it (never fear...you will—remember: Music is based on tonality and all this information is going to lead you to the ability to understand and work with the principles of tonality).

You may have noticed that the same chord *qualities* appear in all the keys above (that is, the 1st, 4th, and 5th triads are majors in all the keys, and the 2nd, 3rd, and 6th chords are all minors, and the 7th is diminished). Because of this fact, a kind of commonly accepted musical shorthand has evolved—a shorthand that uses Roman Numeral symbols to represent the triads *regardless* of the key. The symbols are as follows:

I ii iii IV V vi vii^o Capital Roman numerals indicate Major triads
Small Roman numerals indicate Minor and Diminished triads
(Capital Roman numerals will be used for Augmented triads too)

You will be encountering these symbols more and more as you progress on, and the advantages of being aware of them will come into clear focus in a short time.

By the way, triads built from scales are also called *Diatonic* triads (*Diatonic* means “using only notes of the scale”). So actually the full titles of the above are the *Diatonic Triads of the Major Scale(s)* or the *Diatonic (Major Scale) Triads*. (In case you are wondering, yes, there are non-diatonic triads, but all in good time....)

Another term you should be familiar with is *Degree*. This word in music refers to a note in a scale. Example: If someone says, “What is the 3rd degree of the Ab major scale?” the answer is C — the third note. Also, instead of the word ‘degree’, some people use the term *Step* or *Scale-Step*. (Note: this use of the word *Step* has nothing to do with whole steps and 1/2 steps.) Expect to hear any and all of these terms used—they're all common.

Here are some examples of the Diatonic triads in a few keys. Try playing them so you hear what all this stuff has been about so far:

Sounds such as these are referred to as *Diatonic Chord Scales*

Key of C:

	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B ^o	C							
1		2		4		5		7		9		10		12	
	CEG	DFA	EGB	FAC	GBD	ACE	BDF	CEG							

Key of E:

	E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	D# ^o	E							
1		2		4		5		7		9		10		12	
	EG#B	F#AC#	G#BD#	AC#E	BD#F#	C#EG#	D#F#A	EG#B							

Key of Ab:

	Ab	Bbm	Cm	Db	Eb	Fm	G ^o	Ab							
4		6		8		9		6		8		9		11	
	AbCEb	BbDbF	CEbG	DbFAb	EbGBb	FAbC	GBbDb	AbCEb							

Fill out Quiz #2 now.

Tonality Quiz #2

- 1) Triads are built in what kind of intervals?
- 2) How many of these intervals are “stacked” on each other in a triad?
- 3) Spell the following triads: (hint: write in the *letter* names of the 3rd intervals first, and then fill in the #’s and b’s where necessary).

Example

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Cm: C Eb G | 2) Db | 3) G# | 4) Fm | 5) D+ |
| 6) A | 7) Bb ^o | 8) Dm | 9) Eb | 10) E ^o |
| 11) F | 12) C# | 13) Ab | 14) C ^o | 15) E |
| 16) G+ | 17) Am | 18) B | 19) Ebm | 20) D#m |
| 21) F# ^o | 22) D | 23) Gm | 24) C#m | 25) A+ |
| 26) D# | 27) A#m | 28) Abm | 29) Cb | 30) G#m |
| 31) F# | 32) Gb | 33) G# ^o | 34) Bbm | 35) C |
| 36) A ^o | 37) G ^o | 38) C+ | 39) Em | 40) F#m |
| 41) G | 42) Bm | 43) D ^o | 44) Bb | 45) B ^o |
| 46) C# ^o | 47) A# ^o | 48) F ^o | 49) B# ^o | 50) E# ^o |
| 51) D# ^o | 52) B+ | 53) F#+ | 54) Eb+ | 55) Ab+ |

- 4) What does the word *Quality* refer to?
- 5) What does the word *diatonic* mean?
- 6) What is the quality of the 4th triad in a major scale?
 The 5th? The 1st? The 2nd? The 3rd?
- 7) Write out the names of the triads in at least 4 keys:

- 8) Correct the following examples of diatonic triads in various keys:
 Key of Db: Db Ebm Fm G Ab Bbm C^o
 Key of A: A Bm C#m D E F#^o G#m
 Key of Eb: Eb Fm Gbm Ab B Cm Db^o
 Key of F#: F#m Gm A#m Bm C#m D#m Em
- 9) Write out the spelling (which notes are in the chords) of the diatonic triads in at least 4 keys:

- 10) Write out the correct Roman Numeral symbols (make corrections) under the following examples:
 Key of C: C Dm Em F G Am B^o Key of E: E F#m G#m A B C#m D#^o
 I ii iii iv V VI vii i ii III IV v vi vii^o
 Key of F: F Gm Am Bb C Dm E^o Key of D: D Em F#m G A Bm C#^o
 I II III IV V VI VII I ii iii iv v^o VI VII^o

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NAMES OF TRIADS IN MAJOR SCALES

If you go back to those triads in the D major scale and successfully name them, the following results will appear: **D Em F#m G A Bm C#o**
Notice that the first, fourth and fifth triads are MAJORS, the second, third and sixth are MINORS, and the seventh is a DIMINISHED.

The following is a complete list of the TRIADS built from all 15 major scales:

Key of C:	C Dm Em F G Am B ^o	Key of F:	F Gm Am B ^b C Dm E ^o
Key of G:	G Am Bm C D Em F# ^o	" " B ^b :	B ^b Cm Dm E ^b F Gm A ^o
" " D:	D Em F#m G A Bm C# ^o	" " E ^b :	E ^b Fm Gm Ab B ^b Cm D ^o
" " A:	A Bm C#m D E F#m G# ^o	" " A ^b :	A ^b B ^b m Cm D ^b E ^b Fm G ^o
" " E:	E F#m G#m A B C#m D# ^o	" " D ^b :	D ^b E ^b m Fm G ^b Ab B ^b m C ^o
" " B:	B C#m D#m E F# G#m A# ^o	" " G ^b :	G ^b A ^b m B ^b m C ^b D ^b E ^b m F ^o
" " F#:	F# G#m A#m B C# D#m E# ^o	" " C ^b :	C ^b D ^b m E ^b m F ^b G ^b A ^b m B ^b o
" " C#:	C# D#m E#m F# G# A#m B# ^o		

This list is given only for reference now, so don't worry about memorizing it..... you will memorize much of the information given so far (and to come) very gradually, as you are exposed to it more & more, and as you actually find uses for it (never fear..... you will - remember: MUSIC IS BASED ON TONALITY and all this information is going to lead you to the ability to understand and work with the principles of tonality).

You may have noticed that the same chord QUALITIES appear in all the keys above (that is the 1st, 4th and 5th triads are majors in all the keys, the 2nd, 3rd and 6th chords are minors, and the 7th is diminished). Because of this fact, a kind of commonly-accepted musical shorthand has evolved - a shorthand that uses Roman Numeral symbols to represent the triads regardless of the key. The symbols are as follows:

- I ii iii IV V vi vii^o
- Capital Roman numerals indicate MAJOR TRIADS
- Small " " " " " MINOR + DIMINISHED TRIADS.
- (Capital " " " will be used for AUG. TRIADS too)

You will be encountering these symbols more and more as you progress on, and the advantages of being aware of them will come into clear focus in a short time.

By the way, triads built from scales are also called DIATONIC triads (Diatonic means "using only notes of the scale"). So actually the full titles of the above are the DIATONIC TRIADS OF THE MAJOR SCALE(S) or the DIATONIC (MAJOR SCALE) TRIADS. (In case you are wondering, yes, there are non-diatonic triads, but all in good time.....).

Another term you should be familiar with is DEGREE. This word in music refers to a note in a scale -> Example: If someone says "What is the 3rd degree of the A^b major scale?" the answer is C - the third note. Also, instead of the word degree, some people use the term STEP or SCALE-STEP. Expect to hear any and all of these terms used - they're all common.

Here are some examples of the Diatonic triads in a few keys - try playing them as you hear what all this stuff has been about so far: Notes: This use of the word step has nothing to do with whole steps or 1/2 steps.

SOUNDS SUCH AS THESE ARE REFERRED TO AS DIATONIC CHORDS

Key of C: 1 C (C-E-G) 2 Dm (D-F-A) 4 Em (E-G-B) 5 F (F-A-C) 7 G (G-B-D) 9 Am (A-C-E) 10 B^o (B-D-F)

Key of A^b: 4 Ab (Ab-C-Eb) 6 Bbm (Bb-D-F) 8 Cm (C-Eb-G) 9 Db (Db-F-Ab) 6 Eb (Eb-G-Bb) 7 Fm (F-Ab-Cb) 9 G^o (G-Bb-Db) 11 Ab (Ab-Cb-Eb)

Key of E: 9 E (E-G#-B) 10 F#m (F#-A-C#) 12 G#m (G#-B-D#) 5 A (A-C#-E) 7 B (B-D#-F#)

Fill out QUES #2 NOW.

TONALITY QUIZ #2

- ① Triads are built in what kind of intervals?
- ② How many of these intervals are "stacked" on each other in a triad?
- ③ Spell the following triads: (HINT: Write in the letter names of the 3rd intervals first and then fill in the #s or b's where necessary).

EXAMPLES:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Cm: C E ^b G | 2) D ^b | 3) G [#] | 4) Fm | 5) D ⁺ |
| 6) A | 7) B ^{b0} | 8) Dm | 9) E ^b | 10) E ⁰ |
| 11) F | 12) C [#] | 13) A ^b | 14) C ⁰ | 15) E |
| 16) G ⁺ | 17) Am | 18) B | 19) E ^b m | 20) D [#] m |
| 21) F ^{#0} | 22) D | 23) Gm | 24) C [#] m | 25) A ⁺ |
| 26) D [#] | 27) A [#] m | 28) A ^b m | 29) C ^b | 30) G [#] m |
| 31) F [#] | 32) G ^b | 33) G ^{#0} | 34) B ^b m | 35) C |
| 36) A ⁰ | 37) G ⁰ | 38) C ⁺ | 39) Em | 40) F [#] m |
| 41) G | 42) Bm | 43) D ⁰ | 44) B ^b | 45) B ⁰ |
| 46) C ^{#0} | 47) A ^{#0} | 48) F ⁰ | 49) B ^{#0} | 50) E ^{#0} |
| 51) D ^{#0} | 52) B ⁺ | 53) F ^{#+} | 54) E ^{b+} | 55) A ^{b+} |

- ④ What does the word Quality refer to?
- ⑤ What does the word diatonic mean?
- ⑥ What is the quality of the 4th triad in a major scale?
 the 5th? the 1st? the 2nd? the 3rd?
- ⑦ Write out the names of the triads in at least 4 keys:
- ⑧ Correct the following examples of diatonic triads in various keys:
 Key of D^b: D^b E^bm Fm G A^b B^bm C Key of A: A Bm C[#]m Dm E F^{#0} G[#]m
 Key of E^b: E^b Fm G^bm A^b B Cm D^{b0} Key of F[#]: F[#]m Gm A[#]m Bm C[#]m D[#]m Em
- ⑨ Write out the spelling of the diatonic triads in at least 4 keys:
 (which notes are in the chords)

- ⑩ Write the correct Roman Numeral Symbols (make corrections) under the following examples:
 Key of C: C Dm Em F G Am B⁰
 I ii iii iv V VI vii
- Key of E: E F[#]m G[#]m A B C[#]m D^{#0}
 i ii III IV V vi vii⁰
- Key of F: F Gm Am B^b C Dm E⁰
 I II III IV V VI VII
- Key of D: D Em F[#]m G A Bm C^{#0}
 I ii iii iv v⁰ VI VII⁰