

Triads and Chords

In order to understand how chords and triads are build you will have to have a basic understanding of intervals (see interval lessons).

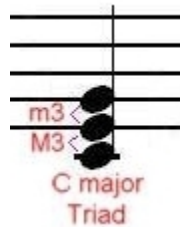
A chord is a group of notes that are played at the same time. A Triad is a type of chord that is made of three notes played at the same time. Triads are one of the most basic types of chords and are used in a variety of popular and classical music.

There are 4 types of triads: Major, Minor, Augmented, and diminished. The difference between these 4 types has to do with the types of intervals that each triad contains.

Triads are build by stacking intervals of a 3rd on top of each other.

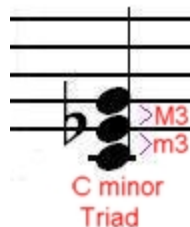
The most common types of triads are Major Triads and Minor Triads.

A Major Triad a Major 3rd + minor 3rd.



M3= Major 3rd m3 = minor 3rd

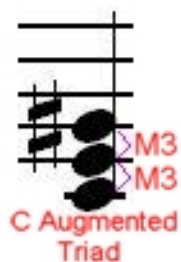
A minor Triad consists of a minor 3rd + Major 3rd.



M3= Major 3rd m3 = minor 3rd

There are two other types of Triads known as Augmented Triads and Diminished Triads. These triads are less common, but are still used in a variety of popular and classical music.

Augmented Triads consist of a Major 3rd + Major 3rd



Diminished Triads consist of a minor 3rd + minor 3rd

