

Triads

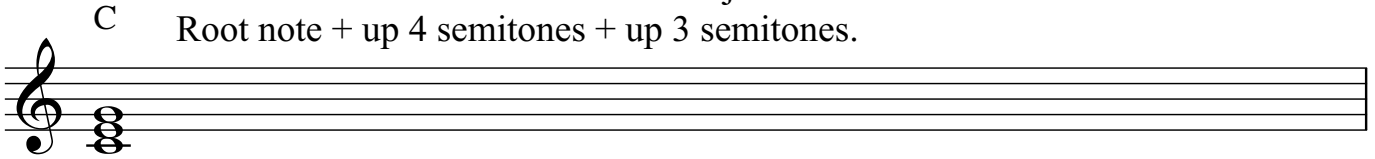
A **triad** is a **chord** consisting of **THREE** notes. The **four** main types of triads that we find in traditional western harmony are:

1. **MAJOR** - *'happy sounding'*
2. **MINOR** - *'sad sounding'*
3. **AUGMENTED** - *sounds strange and mysterious; widely spaced notes*
4. **DIMINISHED** - *sounds dissonant and dramatic; closely spaced notes*

Many chords, even very complex ones, can be simplified down to one of these basic triads. When notating these four types of triads in root position, the notes are always spaced a 3rd apart, ie. all on adjacent lines, or all in adjacent spaces.

A **MAJOR TRIAD** consists of a major 3rd interval and a minor 3rd interval.

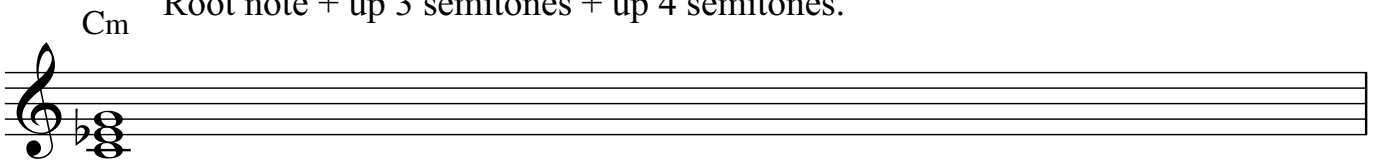
Root note + up 4 semitones + up 3 semitones.



In popular Jazz chord notation, a major triad is represented by a **CAPITAL LETTER**, eg. **C**

A **MINOR TRIAD** consists of a minor 3rd interval and a major 3rd interval.

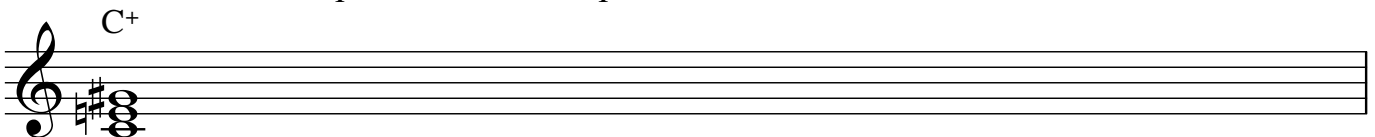
Root note + up 3 semitones + up 4 semitones.



In popular Jazz chord notation, a minor triad is represented by a **CAPITAL LETTER + small 'm'**, eg. **Cm**

An **AUGMENTED TRIAD** consists of a stack of major 3rds.

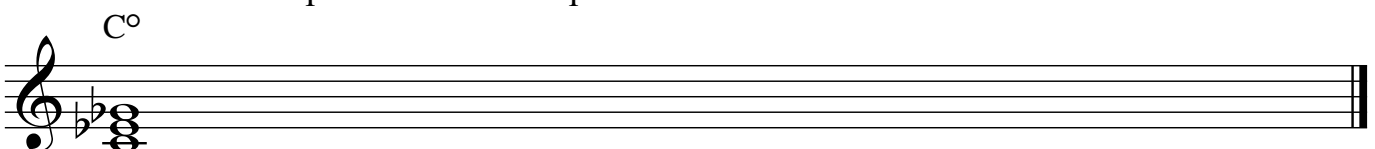
Root note + up 4 semitones + up 4 semitones.



In popular Jazz chord notation, an augmented triad is represented by a **'+' sign or 'aug'**, eg. **C+** or **C aug**

A **DIMINISHED TRIAD** consists of a stack of minor 3rds.

Root note + up 3 semitones + up 3 semitones.



In popular Jazz chord notation, a diminished triad is represented by a **small degree circle or 'dim'**, eg. **C dim** or **C°**