

Introduction to Music Theory - Quick Reference Guide by Doug Wallace

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Part 1: Intervals

M=Major / m=minor / P=Perfect

A musical staff in treble clef showing intervals from Unison to Octave. The notes are: Unison (C), m2nd (C-B), M2nd (C-D), m3rd (C-Eb), M3rd (C-E), P4th (C-F), Tritone (C-F#), P5th (C-G), m6th (C-Ab), M6th (C-A), m7th (C-Bb), M7th (C-B), and Octave (C).

Part 2: 4 Types of Triads

A musical staff showing a Major triad structure: a Major 3rd (C-E) stacked on top of a minor 3rd (E-G).

Major - minor 3rd (E-G) stacked on top of a Major 3rd (C-E) / Sounds "happy" or "bright"

A musical staff showing a minor triad structure: a Major 3rd (Eb-G) stacked on top of a minor 3rd (C-Eb).

minor - Major 3rd (Eb-G) stacked on top of a minor 3rd (C-Eb) / Sounds "sad" or "dark"

A musical staff showing a diminished triad structure: a minor 3rd (Eb-Gb) stacked on top of a minor 3rd (C-Eb).

diminished - minor 3rd (Eb-Gb) stacked on top of a minor 3rd (C-Eb) / Sounds "scary"

A musical staff showing an augmented triad structure: a Major 3rd (E-G#) stacked on top of a Major 3rd (C-E).

Augmented - Major 3rd (E-G#) stacked on top of a Major 3rd (C-E) / Sounds like a "train whistle"

Part 3: Triads within a Major key

A musical staff showing triads in a major key: C (I), D min (ii), E min (iii), F (IV), G(7) (V(7)), A min (vi), B dim (vii°), and C (I).

Part 4: Triads within a minor key (7th is raised, as in a harmonic minor scale)

A musical staff showing triads in a minor key: C min (i), D dim (ii°), Eb aug (III+), F min (iv), G(7) (V(7)), Ab (VI), B dim (vii°), and C min (i).

Part 5: Inversions - Triads

A musical staff showing triad inversions: I (root position), I6 (1st inversion), and I6/4 (2nd inversion).

Part 6: Inversions - Seventh Chords

A musical staff showing seventh chord inversions: V7 (root position), V6/5 (1st inversion), V4/3 (2nd inversion), and V4/2 (3rd inversion).

Part 7: Chord Progressions / Chord Function

A musical staff showing chord progressions in major and minor keys. The major key progression is Tonic (I), Subdominant (iii, vi), and Dominant (IV, ii, vi, V(7), iii, vii°). The minor key progression is Tonic (i), Subdominant (III, VI), and Dominant (iv, ii°, VI, V(7), III+, vii°).