

Triads

A *chord* is the simultaneous sounding of three or more notes. A chord with three notes is referred to as a *triad*, comprised of a root, third, and fifth. There are four types of triads: major, minor, diminished, and augmented. Commercial chord symbols are useful for quick identification of triads. Use capital letters for all triads, add a lower case “m” for minor triads, a circle for diminished triads, and a plus sign for augmented triads.

C
Cm
C°
C+

Major
Minor
Diminished
Augmented

Triads can be identified by the intervals over the root.

	Major	Minor	Diminished	Augmented
Fifth	↘ P5	↘ P5	↘ d5 (o)	↘ A5 (+)
Third	↘ M3	↘ m3	↘ m3	↘ M3
Root	↘ Root	↘ Root	↘ Root	↘ Root

Triads – Homework

1. Write all the major triads chromatically. A double bar line always cancels the accidentals of the previous measure.

C C#

2. Write all the minor triads chromatically.

Cm C#m

3. Write all the diminished triads chromatically.

C° C#°

4. Write all the augmented triads chromatically.

C+ Db+