

Triads and Inversions

Review Sheet

for use with Harmony Workbook Pages 4-1 - 4-6

The four qualities of triads: Major, minor, diminished and augmented

M3 m3 Major

m3 M3 minor

m3 m3 diminished[°]

M3 M3 Augmented+

NB: The diminished 5th is signified by [°] sign.

*NB: The *si* is an *augmented 5th* above the *mi*. Because it is still a fifth it is spelled *si#*, **not** *do#*. The augmented 5th is signified by the "+" sign.

The five *main* qualities of 7th chords: Major (Major-M) **minor** (minor-m7) **Dominant** (Major-m7) **fully-diminished** (dim-dim7) **half-diminished** (dim-m7)

Major m7 Major 7th Chord

minor m7 Minor 7th Chord

Major m7 Dominant 7th Chord

dim dim7 fully diminished[°] 7th chord

dim m7 half diminished[°] 7th chord

The triad in its inversions.

NB: intervals for inversions are the same, regardless of the triad's quality.

5 6 6
3 3 4
root position 1st inversion 2nd inversion

Root position: root in the bass
1st inversion: 3rd in the bass
2nd inversion: 5th in the bass
3rd inversion: 7th in the bass (*7th chords only*)

Note how numbers for each inversion simply name the intervals above the bass.

7 6 (6) (6)
(5) 5 4 4
(3) (3) 3 2
root position 1st inversion 2nd inversion 3rd inversion

The numbers in parenthesis are usually omitted. Also, please note that a #, b, or b on its own always applies to the 3rd above the bass. You'll encounter this in the workbook pages.