

RIM1230, R. Adams  
Lecture: Friday 9/10/21

## Proficiency 2 Preparation

Diatonic Harmony: (definition) CHORDS derived from the major scale of a given key

Using the notes of this scale

A major:     1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1  
              A B C# D E F# G# A

The following chords (Triads: 3 note chord) would be spelled as such:

- 1: A C# E   A major triad
- 6 -: F# A C#   F# minor triad
- 3-: C# G#E   C# min triad
- 5: E G# B    E major triad

Notice each triad is built from the scale degree corresponding to the given number.

1 begins on the note A, followed by every other letter of the scale above to complete 1 triad: **A C# E**

6- begins on F#, followed every other note above to complete the 6- triad, **F# A C#**

3- begins on C# followed by every other note above to complete the 4 triad **C#EG#**

5 begins on E followed by every other note above to complete the 5 triad **E G# B**

Reading the proficiency 2 instructions we see these same chords on the keyboard, with the chord tones are played in the right and the bass notes in the left hand. However, the order of the chord tones has changed to make the movement smoother between chords.

This is known as smooth **Voice Leading**

LH	Right Hand
A	A C# E
F#	A C# F#
C#	G#C#E
E	G# B E

*Notice that we keep common notes (if any) between chords, or move to the closest chord tone. This keeps the movement smooth*

Now let's transpose it to C major:

Scale degrees: C D E F G A B C

Find chord tones for each triad:

- 1 CEG
- 6- ACE
- 3- EGB
- 5 GBD

Voice leading transposed:

<b>LH</b>	<b>Right Hand</b>
C	C E G
A-	C E A
3-	B E G
5	B D G

*Notice that the common tones that we kept in the key of C major follows the same pattern as the key of A major*

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Now try it in the key of B major (up a M2 from key of A)

B major scale: ?

N#	Chord Spelling
1 ?	
6- ?	
3- ?	
5 ?	

Voice Leading:

<b>LH</b>	<b>Right Hand</b>
?	???
?	???
?	???
?	???

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## **Introduction to the intervals of a 3rd\_ Major and minor 3rd**

### **Finding a Major 3rd**

Simplest way to find a Major 3 above any note is to think of the 3rd degree of the major scale above it

Example:

A major 3rd above **D is F#**

**DEF#GABC#D**

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

The distance between scale degrees 1(D) and 3 (F#) is a major 3rd

Second example

What is the Major 3rd Interval from scale degrees 1 and 3 in A major ?

Scale: ABC#DEF#G#A

Major 3rd above **A is a C#**

Try a major 3rd above Db  
Db major scale Scale ?:

Notes that are 1 and 3 of the Db Major scale?

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### **Finding a minor 3rd**

Skip a letter in the musical alphabet and check to make sure there are only 3 half steps between each pitch.

Remember, counting half steps is done as follows: C to Db is 1, Db to D is 2, D to Eb is 3 etc..

Example: a minor 3rd above B? (ABCDEFG) after B skip (C) go to D.  
Then check if its a minor 3rd by counting 1/2 steps  
B to D is already just 3 half steps apart, so it is a m3rd

Look at these example on the keyboard

Bb to Db is also a minor 3rd

A to C is also a minor 3rd

Which means that Ab to Cb is a minor 3rd

What is a minor 3rd above G ? (ABCDEFG)

G to B is a third, but the B must be made a Bb to make it a minor 3rd (3 half steps on the keyboard)

Try these examples:  
minor 3rd above F#?

minor 3rd above Gb? (It needs a special accidental) It is Bbb

minor above A#?

### **Intervals down from the the top note:**

Simply reverse the process:

A major 3rd below C#: If C# is the 3rd degree, what major scale is it from? A major  
Answer: a major 3rd below C# is A

A major:      1 2 3 4      5 6 7  
                 **ABC#** D    E F# G#

### **Finding a minor 3rd down:**

Beginning from the top note, skip down a letter in the musical alphabet: ABCDEFG

Example:

A minor third below Gb. Skipping from G (past F) down to E. Now count the half steps on the keyboard. Three half steps below Gb bring us to Eb. (Not D#)

Remember no matter if the note is natural, flat or sharp, the letters must be every other from musical; alphabet.

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Review: This information needs to be committed to memory

### **Circle of 5ths:**

Keys to the right from the top on circle of 5ths add 1 sharp for each new key

**Key:**                    **G D A E B F# C#**

Number of sharps    1. 2. 3. 4.5 6. 7

*Notice after the key of B, the keys tonic note begins on a sharps*

Keys to the left from the top on circle of 5ths add 1 flat for each new key

**Key:**                    **F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb**

Number of flats:     1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7

*Notice after the key of F, the keys tonic note begins on flats*

### **Key Signatures**

When figuring out key signatures, remember that the order of sharps or flats for a given key are as follows:

(Different from circle of 5ths)

#### **Order of sharps:**

**F#C#G#D#A#E#B#** for key signature that use sharps

*Example: The key of A major uses 3 sharps, and uses the pitches F#, C#, G# as part of its scale: A B C# D E F# G# A*

#### **Order of flats:**

**BbEbAbDbGbCbFb** key signatures that use flats

*Example: The key of Eb major uses 4 flats, and uses the pitches Bb Eb Ab Db as part of its scale: Eb F G Ab Bb C D Eb*

