

MAJOR TRIADS LESSON 1

Triads are important building blocks in music and especially in jazz. The study of triads will help one learn the function of notes in chords, train the ear and help technique. Triads can be found when analyzing solos of the masters, or in the melody of tunes such as "In The Mood"



Stevie Wonder's tune "Sir Duke" starts off with a major triad.



The tune "All of Me" has a descending 1st inversion major triad in the 1st measure and a descending triad in the 3rd measure



The next examples are common triadic licks.



The following exercises are studies in the basic major triad. Example "A" starts on a C major triad and ascends through all 12 keys. When practicing these exercises, one should start at the lowest note of the instrument and go to the highest.

Exercise "B" reverses the triad from 1-3-5 to 5-3-1 starting on C and ascending and descending through all 12 keys chromatically.

Exercise "C" ascends on the 1st triad and descends on the 2nd up a half step. 1-3-5 then 5-3-1

Exercise "D" reverses the order of exercise "C"

Remember to start at the lowest note of your instrument to the highest. You want to be able to play through all 12 keys at the same tempo. If you cannot play it slow correctly, you will not be able to play it fast. Using a metronome and gradually speeding it up as you are able to play it will help develop your technique.

MAJOR TRIADS LESSON 2

1st Inversion 2nd Inversion

A

B

C

D

MAJOR TRIADS LESSON 2

E

Two staves of musical notation for Major Triad E. The first staff starts at measure 32 and the second at measure 35. Both staves contain a sequence of notes with accidentals (sharps and flats) and are marked with a '5' below each note, indicating a fifth finger fingering.

F

Two staves of musical notation for Major Triad F. The first staff starts at measure 39 and the second at measure 42. Both staves contain a sequence of notes with accidentals (sharps and flats) and are marked with a '5' below each note, indicating a fifth finger fingering.

G

Two staves of musical notation for Major Triad G. The first staff starts at measure 46 and the second at measure 49. Both staves contain a sequence of notes with accidentals (sharps and flats) and are marked with a '5' below each note, indicating a fifth finger fingering.

H

Two staves of musical notation for Major Triad H. The first staff starts at measure 53 and the second at measure 56. Both staves contain a sequence of notes with accidentals (sharps and flats) and are marked with a '5' below each note, indicating a fifth finger fingering.