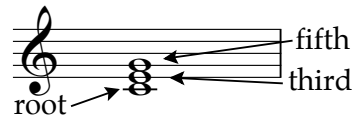
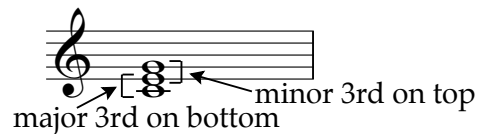


*Section 4.1***INTRODUCING TRIADS****Triad**  
**Root, Third, Fifth**

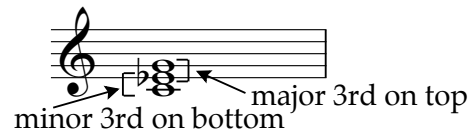
A **triad** is a three-note chord built of **two third intervals** stacked on top of each other. The three notes are called **root**, **third** and **fifth** from bottom to top. In the chord below, the two third intervals are C to E and E to G.

**Major triads**

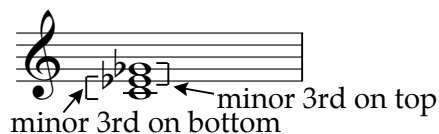
A **major triad** has a **major third** on the bottom and a **minor third** on top. The chord that occurs on the first step of a **major** key is a **major triad**.

**Minor triads**

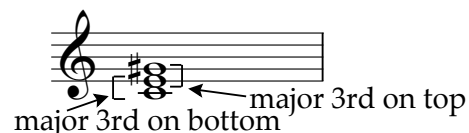
A **minor triad** has a **minor third** on the bottom and a **major third** on top. The chord that occurs on the first step of a **minor** key is a **minor triad**.

**Diminished triads**

A **diminished triad** is a stack of two **minor thirds**.

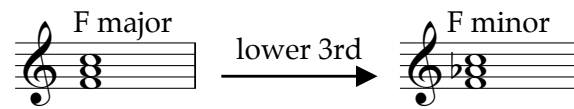
**Augmented triads**

An **augmented triad** is a stack of two **major thirds**.

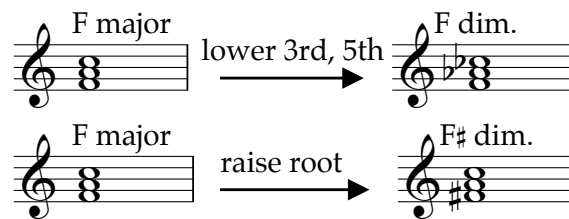


**Spelling minor triads**

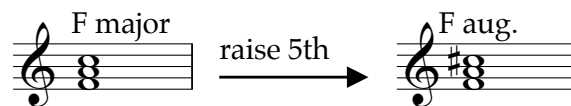
To spell a **minor triad**, start with a major triad, then **lower the 3rd using an accidental** to make a minor triad.

**Spelling diminished triads**

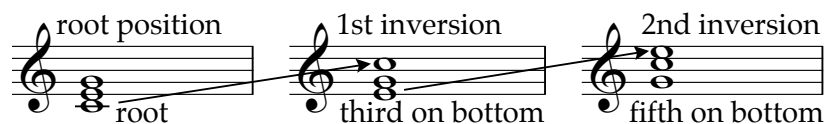
To spell a **diminished triad**, start with a major triad, then **lower the 3rd and 5th** to make a **diminished triad**. Another option is to start with a major triad, then **raise the root** to make a diminished triad.

**Spelling augmented triads**

To spell an **augmented triad**, spell a major triad, then **raise the 5th (only)** to make an augmented triad.

**Root position  
First inversion  
Second inversion**

**Root position** means the **root** is the lowest note. When the **third** is the lowest note, the triad is in **first inversion**. When the **fifth** is the lowest note, the triad is in **second inversion**.

**Voicing and inversion**

**Chord voicing** refers to the ordering of the notes (root, third, fifth) above the lowest note. Changing the chord voicing does not change the inversion.

