

Section 4.2

THE MAJOR TRIADS: SPELL THEM QUICKLY

Overview

First, memorize the letter name pattern for thirds: F A C E G B D F A. Then remember: **stack of thirds**, “**BEAD**” raise third, **B Bumps Both**. See 4.1 **Introducing Triads** to spell diminished, augmented, or minor from major.

Stack of thirds

STEP 1: Make a stack of thirds with the **same accidental** on each note.

G, C, F root triads: Done!

B, E, A, D root triads: Done!

BEAD raise third

STEP 2: For “BEAD” roots only, **raise the third** using an accidental.

E, A, D root triads: Done!

B Bumps Both

STEP 3: Only for B roots, **also raise the fifth** using an accidental. B roots thus raise the 3rd and the 5th.

B root triads: Done!