

Section 3.3

MASTERING INTERVALS 2

Harmonic vs. melodic intervals

In a **harmonic** interval, the notes sound at the same time. In a **melodic** interval, the notes sound one after the other. Melodic intervals may be **ascending** or **descending**.



harmonic major 6th melodic major 6th (ascending) melodic major 6th (descending)

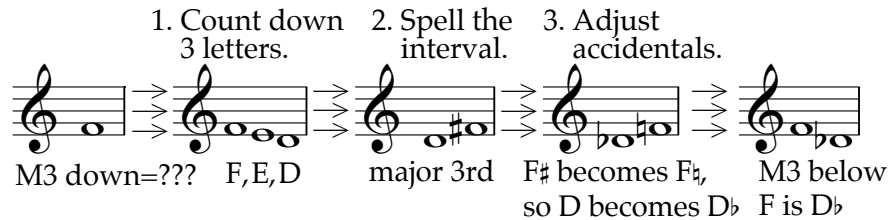
Spelling descending intervals

To spell a **descending interval**:

STEP 1: Count down letter names to find the low note's letter name.

STEP 2: Spell the desired interval up from the low note.

STEP 3: Adjust both notes up or down with accidentals to match the desired top note.

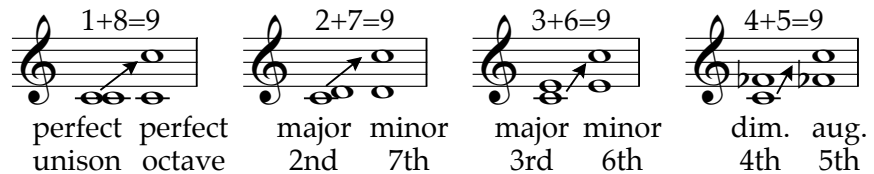


1. Count down 3 letters. 2. Spell the interval. 3. Adjust accidentals.

M3 down=??? F, E, D major 3rd F# becomes F \flat , M3 below so D becomes D \flat F is D \flat

Interval inversion

Interval inversion is raising the lower note of an interval an octave OR lowering the higher note an octave. The new interval number equals nine minus the old interval number. Perfect inverts to perfect, major inverts to minor (and vice-versa), and diminished to augmented (and vice-versa).



1+8=9 2+7=9 3+6=9 4+5=9

perfect perfect major minor major minor dim. aug.
unison octave 2nd 7th 3rd 6th 4th 5th

Using inversion for sixths and sevenths

3.2 Mastering Intervals 1 presented one method for spelling **sixths** and **sevenths**. Two more ways are counting letter names and half steps or using inversion. Using inversion, find **minor 6ths** by spelling a **major 3rd** in the **opposite direction**, and so on.

minor 6th major 3rd
above C = below C

minor 6th major 3rd
below C = above C

minor 7th major 2nd
below C = above C

Identifying intervals

To **identify** a given interval:

STEP 1: Count letters to identify the interval number (2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.)

STEP 2: Spell the major or perfect version.

STEP 3: Compare with the given notes to identify the quality. In the example below, the given interval is one half step larger than a major sixth, so it is augmented.

Interval=??

1. Count letters (F, G, A, B, C, D = 6)

2. Spell M6

3. Compare.

M6 A6

Summary of interval types

This summary lists the half steps for each interval class and quality:

	diminished	minor	major	augmented
2nds				
3rds				
6ths				
7ths				
Unis.				
4ths				
5ths				
8ves				