

# Contents

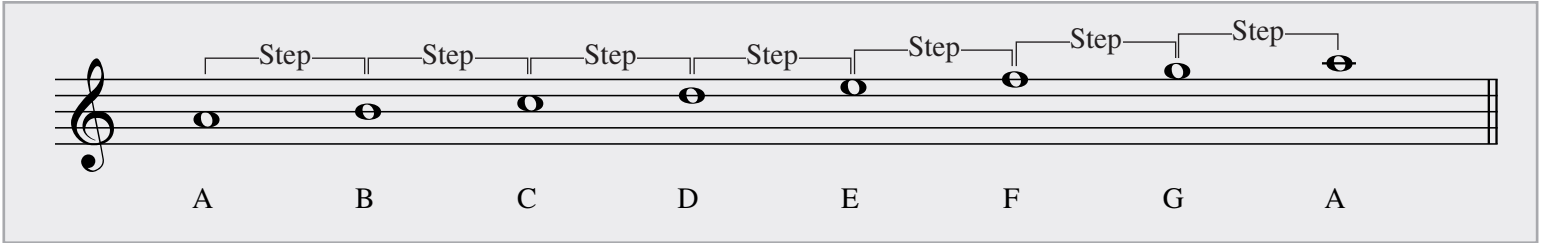
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# lesson 3: whole steps and half steps

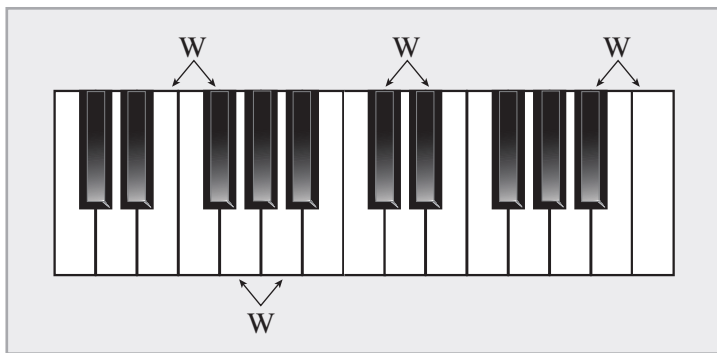
Vocabulary this page:  
whole steps/half steps/fret/fretboard

The distance between notes can be measured in steps. A *step* is the distance between two notes that are adjacent in the musical alphabet. A step is a close distance.



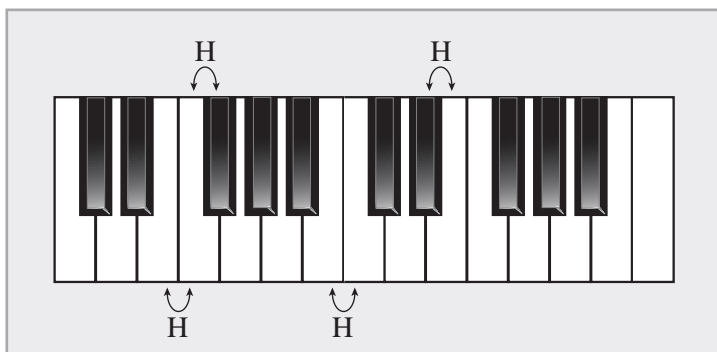
## Whole Steps

There are two kinds of steps. On the piano, a *whole step* is the distance between two white keys that have one black key between them. The distance between two black keys that have one white key between them is also a whole step. The keys that are marked in the diagram show that any two keys that have one other key between them are whole steps.



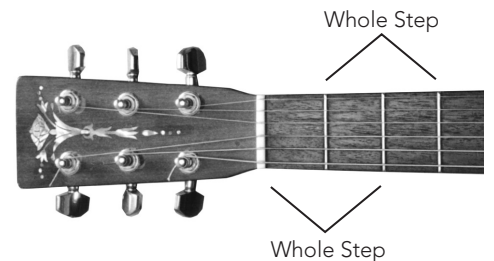
## Half Steps

On a piano, a *half step* is the distance between any two adjacent keys that have no other keys between them.

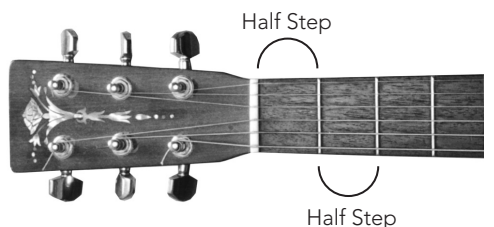


### NOTE FOR GUITARISTS

On a guitar, a whole step is the distance of two frets, with no other frets between them. (Frets are the metal wires that divide the fretboard, which is the playing area of the neck of a fretted, stringed instrument.) Any two frets separated by one fret is a whole step. Also, the distance of an open string to the 2nd fret is a whole step.



On a guitar, a half step is the distance between any two adjacent frets. Also, the distance from the open string to the 1st fret is a half step.

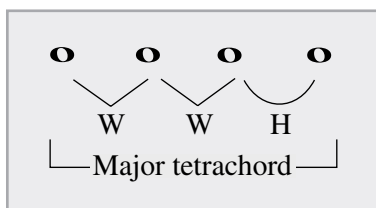


## lesson 4: tetrachords

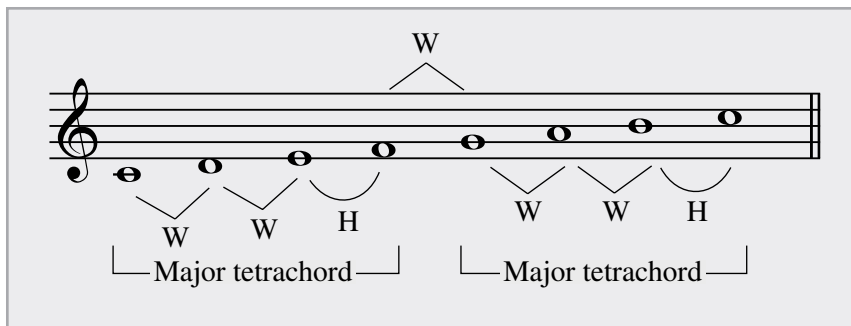
Vocabulary this page:

tetra/tetrachord

Tetra is a very old word (Latin/Greek) meaning "four." A tetrachord is a group of four pitches arranged in stepwise, alphabetical order. A major tetrachord has the following formula:



If you observe the first four notes and the last four notes of the major scale, you will see that they are both major tetrachords. A major scale is two major tetrachords with a whole step between them.



### Ear Training Exercises



1. On the CD, you will hear four scales. Indicate whether it is chromatic or major by circling the correct answer.

A. Major Chromatic B. Major Chromatic C. Major Chromatic D. Major Chromatic



2. On the CD, you will hear six scales. Indicate whether it is chromatic, major, or some other scale by circling the correct answer.

A. Major Chromatic Other B. Major Chromatic Other C. Major Chromatic Other  
D. Major Chromatic Other E. Major Chromatic Other F. Major Chromatic Other



3. Below are four melodic patterns made from major tetrachords, labeled 1, 2, 3 and 4. Which one of them are you hearing in examples A–H? Circle the answers.

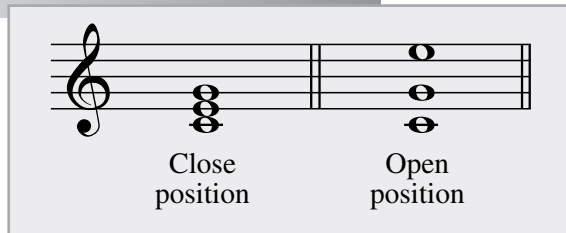
A. 1 2 3 4      B. 1 2 3 4      C. 1 2 3 4      D. 1 2 3 4  
E. 1 2 3 4      F. 1 2 3 4      G. 1 2 3 4      H. 1 2 3 4

## lesson 4: close and open position triads

Vocabulary this page:

close position/open position/in the bass /  
inversion/inverted triad/1st inversion

So far all of the triads we have seen have been in close position. In other words, the notes were all within one octave; they were spaced as close together as possible. When the notes are spaced over more than one octave, they are in open position.

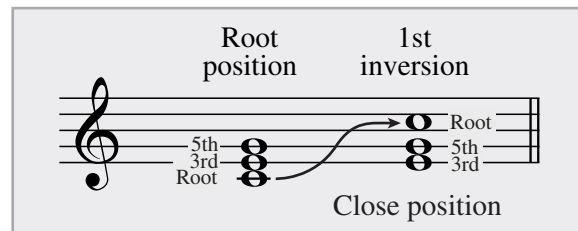


## lesson 5: triad inversion—1st inversion

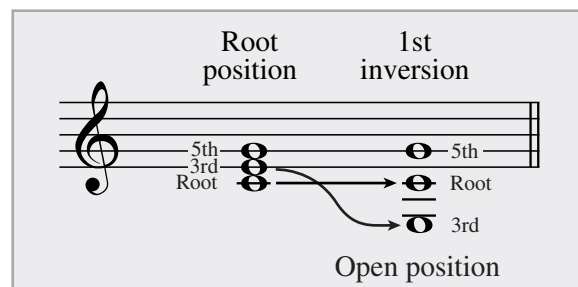
On page 57, you learned that any triad that has the root in the bass (on the bottom) is called a root position triad. So far, we have only dealt with root position triads in close position. However, triads can appear in other ways, too.

When a note other than the root is in the bass of a triad, it is called an inversion, or an inverted triad.

If we take the root out of the bass and put it on top of the triad, the 3rd will be in the bass. When the 3rd of the chord is in the bass, it is called 1st inversion. This is true for any type of triad.



A 1st position triad can be in open position, too. The 3rd is dropped an octave. The notes are the same, but they are arranged differently.



Here are the diatonic triads for the key of C Major in 1st inversion, close position:

C	Dmin	Emin	F	G	Amin	Bdim	C
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°	I

### Exercises

1. Draw a rectangle around the 1st inversion triads. Label each chord with a chord symbol on the lines above the staff, and circle the root of each.