

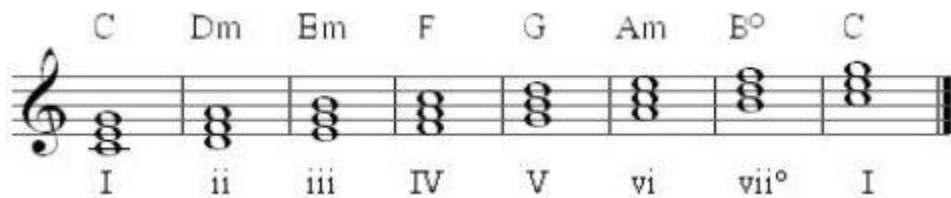
Diatonic Triads

Diatonic Triads - chord symbol and roman numeral analysis

Starting with a C major scale:

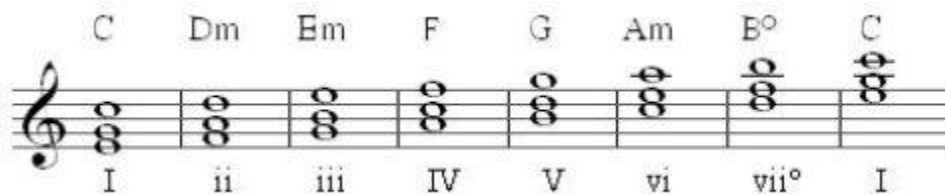


we are going to build a triad on each note of the scale:

A musical staff in treble clef showing diatonic triads in C major. Above the staff are chord symbols: C, Dm, Em, F, G, Am, B°, and C. Below the staff are Roman numerals: I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii°, and I. Each triad is shown as a group of three notes on the staff.

These are the **diatonic triads** in the key of **C major**. They only use notes in the key signature with **no added sharps or flats**.

Here are the same **diatonic triads** in the key of **C major** in the **1st inversion**. **To be completely accurate, chord symbols are generally followed by a forward slash (/) and the actual note name of the lowest voice (example: C/E, Dm/F, etc.). For the exact Roman Numeral Analysis, first inversion triads are expressed with an Arabic 6 following the Roman Numeral (example: I6, ii6, ii6, etc.).**

A musical staff in treble clef showing diatonic triads in C major in 1st inversion. Above the staff are chord symbols: C, Dm, Em, F, G, Am, B°, and C. Below the staff are Roman numerals: I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii°, and I. Each triad is shown as a group of three notes on the staff, with the lowest note being the third of the triad.

(Continued on next page).

Here are the same **diatonic triads** in the key of **C major** in the **2nd inversion**. **Again, the exact chord symbol expressing this inversion would be C/G, Dm/A, etc., while the Roman Numeral Analysis would be followed by an Arabic 6 and 4 (example: I_4^6 , etc.).**

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. Above the staff, eight chords are written: C, Dm, Em, F, G, Am, B°, and C. Below the staff, the corresponding Roman numerals are written: I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii°, and I. Each chord is represented by three notes in 2nd inversion on the staff.

The chord symbols above the staff describe each chord... i.e.

- the C, F and G chords are major
- the D, E and A chords are minor and
- the B chord is diminished

Below the staff there is a series of Roman Numerals. In traditional music theory, diatonic chords and chord progressions are analyzed with Roman Numerals.

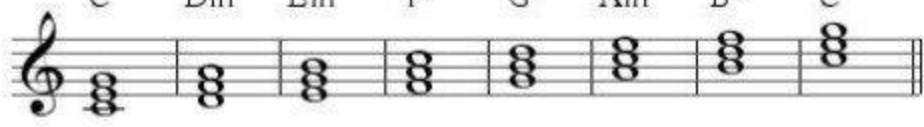
- the upper case, (I-IV-V) are major chords
- the lower case (ii-iii-vi) are minor
- the lower case with the little circle (vii°) is diminished.

CHORD SYMBOLS are widely used in popular and jazz sheet music. Understanding them is a must for any chord player.

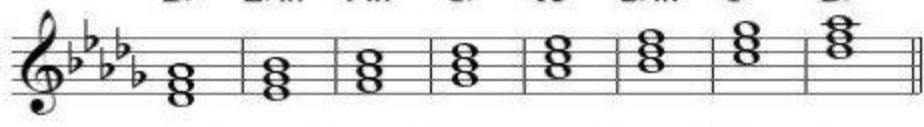
Although the **ROMAN NUMERALS** are not used today in most sheet music, they are **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** in understanding and using **SUBSTITUTE CHORDS** and **CHORD PROGRESSIONS**.

Listed on the next page are the **DIATONIC TRIADS** in all of the major keys. **NOTE THE KEY SIGNATURES AS ACCIDENTALS DO APPLY TO THE WRITTEN NOTES!!!!**

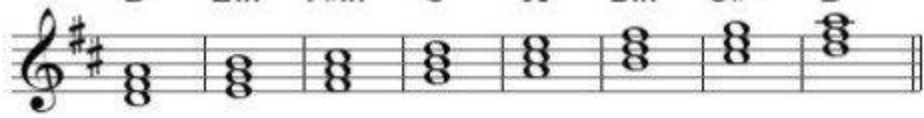
C C Dm Em F G Am B° C



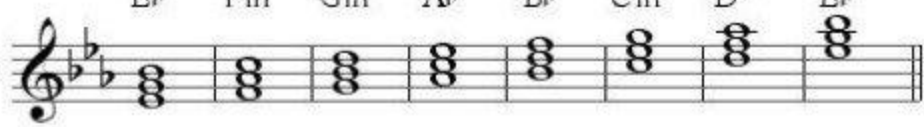
D° Dm Ebm Fm Gb Ab Bbm C° D°



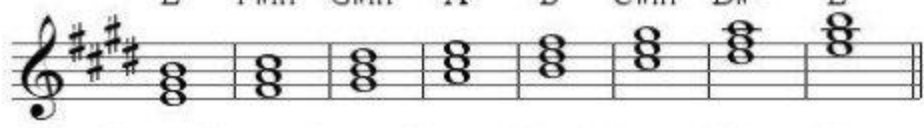
D D Em F#m G A Bm C#° D




E° Fm Gm Ab Bb Cm D° E°




E E F#m G#m A B C#m D#° E




F F Gm Am Bb C Dm E° F



G° Abm Bbm Cb D° Ebm F° G°



G G Am Bm C D Em F#° G



Ab

Ab Bbm Cm Db Eb Fm G° Ab

This staff shows the Ab major scale in treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The chords are: Ab (Ab, Cb, Eb), Bbm (Bb, Db, Fb), Cm (Cb, Eb, Gb), Db (Db, Fb, Ab), Eb (Eb, Gb, Bb), Fm (Fb, Ab, Cb), G° (G, Bb, Db), and Ab (Ab, Cb, Eb).

A

A Bm C#m D E F#m G#° A

This staff shows the A major scale in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps. The chords are: A (A, C#, E), Bm (B, D, F), C#m (C#, E, G), D (D, F#, A), E (E, G#, B), F#m (F#, A, C), G#° (G#, B, D), and A (A, C#, E).

Bb

Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm A° Bb

This staff shows the Bb major scale in treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The chords are: Bb (Bb, Db, F), Cm (Cb, Eb, Gb), Dm (Db, Fb, Ab), Eb (Eb, Gb, Bb), F (F, Ab, Cb), Gm (Gb, Bb, Db), A° (A, C, E), and Bb (Bb, Db, F).

B

B C#m D#m E F# G#m A#° B

This staff shows the B major scale in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The chords are: B (B, D#, F#), C#m (C#, E, G), D#m (D#, F#, A), E (E, G#, B), F# (F#, A, C), G#m (G#, B, D), A#° (A#, C#, E), and B (B, D#, F#).
