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# Chapter 1

## TRIADS IN ROOT POSITION

A triad in root position consists of three alternating scale notes -

e.g. in C major     $\textcircled{\text{C}}$    D    $\textcircled{\text{E}}$    F    $\textcircled{\text{G}}$   
                                  1st (root)   3rd                    5th

Since there are seven notes in the major scale, there are seven triads, numbered according to the notes of the scale.

e.g. in D major:



Here are the triads built on the harmonic minor scale:



If you play the I, IV and V chords from any major scale and the V and VI from any minor scale, what do you hear?



These sound similar because they are all major triads and consist of similar intervals. (What are the intervals?)

Similarly, II, III, and VI from any major scale and I and IV from any minor scale are all minor triads.



**PLAY THE EXAMPLES, TRANSPOSE AS INDICATED.**

**USAGE OF III (MAJOR KEYS ONLY)**

III should be used with caution at this early stage:

- 1 / it may be preceded or followed by I, V or VI  
but it is best followed by VI:

Transpose  
into  
F MAJOR

V III VI

- 2 / in a descending scale passage the leading note  
may be harmonized by III,  
preceded by I or VI  
and followed by IV:

Transpose  
into  
G MAJOR

I III IV

**USAGE OF III<sub>6</sub> (MAJOR KEYS ONLY)**

III<sub>6</sub> like III must be used with caution:

- 1 / it may be preceded or followed by I, V or VI  
but it is best followed by VI:

Transpose  
into  
A MAJOR

V III<sub>6</sub> VI