

## Part II - An Intervallic Approach to the Harmonized Minor Chords

Q: Did you recognize that the Natural interval sequence (½-1-1) is simply a Major interval sequence (1-1-½) in reverse?

To create the "harmonized" CHORDS of a MAJOR scale we first "assemble" the MAJOR DEGREE scale, from Root (R) through Octave (8), using its' intervallic sequence, ie: (M) (1) (M) = (1-1-½) (1) (1-1-½):

MAJOR DEGREE scale = (R-2-34) (-) (5-6-78) = R-2-34-5-6-78

Next, we designate the Tonic (Root) note from the Key of the scale (assume Key of C) and space subsequent notes per the intervallic sequence:

MAJOR DEGREE scale = R-2-34-5-6-78 = C-D-EF-G-A-BC'

Then, we "align" the scale notes directly beneath their corresponding DEGREE numbers, ie:

R-2-34-5-6-78  
C-D-EF-G-A-BC'

By definition a CHORD is "every other note" of a scale and consists of three (or more) notes, so a simple 3-note ("triad") MAJOR chord contains Root, third and fifth SCALE notes, and the C Major triad chord would be:

(R) -2- (3) 4- (5) -6-78  
(C) -D- (E) F- (G) -A-BC' = C, E, G = C Major

This process is repeated six more times, but each time starting with the NEXT higher DEGREE (2/D, 3/E, 4/F, etc.) note. The result is a table of the familiar "harmonized" chords of the C Major scale:

R-2-34-5-6-78  
C-D-EF-G-A-BC' = C, E, G = C Maj = (1-1-½) (1) (1-1-½) = (M) (1) (M)  
D-EF-G-A-BC-D' = D, F, A = D min = (1-½-1) (1) (1-½-1) = (m) (1) (n)  
EF-G-A-BC-D-E' = E, G, B = E min = (½-1-1) (1) (½-1-1) = (n) (1) (m)  
F-G-A-BC-D-EF' = F, A, C = F Maj = (1-1-1) (½) (1-1-½) = (W) (½) (M)  
G-A-BC-D-EF-G' = G, B, D = G dom = (1-1-½) (1) (1-½-1) = (M) (1) (m)  
A-BC-D-EF-G-A' = A, C, E = A min = (1-½-1) (1) (½-1-1) = (m) (1) (n)  
BC-D-EF-G-A-B' = B, D, F# = B dim = (½-1-1) (½) (1-1-1) = (n) (½) (W)

NOTE: Minor (flat-3) notes are colored blue.

where:

Whole interval (W) = (1-1-1)  
 Major interval (M) = (1-1-½)  
 Minor interval (m) = (1-½-1)  
 Natural interval (n) = (½-1-1)

Inspection of the intervallic sequences shown on the right provides the following "rules":

- 1) a MAJOR chord can be formed using TWO different intervals, (M)(1)(M) or (W)( $\frac{1}{2}$ )(M).
- 2) a MINOR chord can be formed using TWO different intervals, (m)(1)(n) or (n)(1)(m).
- 3) a DOMINANT chord is formed using interval, (M)(1)(m).
- 4) a DIMINISHED chord is formed using interval, (n)( $\frac{1}{2}$ )(W).

Q: Did you notice that the two MINOR chord intervalic sequences are reverse images of each other?

Q: Did you notice that the DOMINANT chord sequence, (M)(1)(m), is the "reverse" of the ascending MELODIC minor chord sequence, (m)(1)(M)?