

# The Four Basic Triads





Triads are chords of *three* notes. There are four basic triads that you'll want to be comfortable and fluent with. These are the major, minor, diminished and augmented triads.

The Major triad is formed by the root, 3rd, and 5th of the major scale. The root is the note that establishes the foundation of the chord and the note that the chord is named after. The chord symbols are C, CMaj, CMa, CM, and CΔ.

The Minor triad is formed by the root, b3rd, and 5th of the major scale. The chord symbols are Cmin, Cmi, Cm, and C-. (In chord symbols, the terms for "minor" always refer to the *third*, which is flatted).

The Diminished triad is formed by the root, b3rd, and b5th of the major scale. The term "diminished" refers to the interval of the *fifth*, which is made smaller or decreased in size when the upper note of the perfect fifth, C to G, is lowered by a half-step and becomes a diminished fifth. The chord symbols are Cdim and Co.

The Augmented triad is formed by the root, 3rd, and #5th of the major scale. The term "augmented" refers to the interval of the *fifth*, which is made *larger* or increased in size when the upper note of the perfect fifth, C to G, is raised by a half-step. The chord symbols are Caug and C+.

C	Cmin	Co	C+
			
C Major	C Minor	C Diminished	C Augmented