

Triads from the Major Scale

Spelling out triads from the Major Scale is simple once you know the Major Scale itself. Below are three major scales in different keys.

C Major C D E F G A B

A Major A B C# D E F# G#

Eb Major Eb F G Ab Bb C D

You can figure out these scales on guitar based on the following structure:

Start on C

2 frets up is D

2 frets up is E

1 fret up is F

2 frets up is G

2 frets up is A

2 frets up is B

1 fret up is C

You can find every Major scale on one string using this formula. Pick any note, and figure out how to play it on one string.

Take these scales, and try to play the triads on one string. Do this for all Major keys and on all strings.

When the triads for each of the above keys are written out, they look like this.

	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii dim
C Major	CEG	DFA	EGB	FAC	GBD	ACE	BDF
A Major	AC#E	BDF#	C#EG#	DF#A	EG#B	F#AC#	G#BD
Eb Major	EbGBb	FAbC	GBbD	AbCEb	BbDF	CEbG	DFAb

Make your own table that looks like the one above and keep it as a reference. Make enough rows for all the Major keys.

Notice the Roman Numerals in the top row. These indicate both chord *quality* and *function*. This will be covered in more detail in the next lesson.