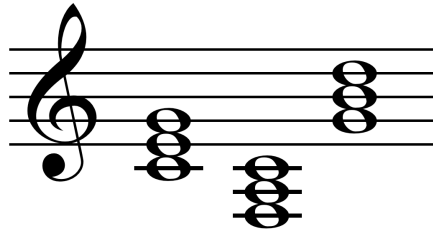


# Diatonic Triads

A triad is a 3 note chord that is constructed of stacked third intervals (every other note).



There are three qualities of a triad in the major scale:

Major: Capital roman numeral I

Minor: Lower-case roman numeral ii

Diminished: Lower-case roman numeral with an o to right in superscript. vii<sup>o</sup>

The order of chord qualities in every major scale is represented in roman numerals and is called diatonic major chord sequence.

I ii iii IV V vi vii<sup>o</sup>

Let's apply this to the A major scale

A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii <sup>o</sup>

A chord has two names, it's letter name and its quality.

A musician will say "the two chord" when referring to the second chord in a scale.

The two chord (ii) in the key of A is B minor.

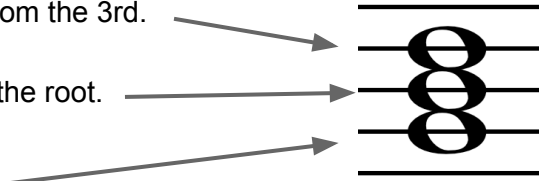
## Spelling diatonic triads

Triads are spelled from bottom to top.

The last note is the 5th of the chord and it is two notes up from the 3rd.

The next note in a triad is a 3rd which is two notes up from the root.

The first note and the name of the chord is called the root.



Let's build a major chord based off of the first note in the A major scale

First build your A major scale:

A B C# D E F# G# A

An A major chord has the root A

A B C# D E F# G# A

If you start on the root and count to 3 you get the 3rd

A B C# D E F# G# A

When you start on the root and count to 5 you get the 5th

A B C# D E F# G# A

An A major chord is spelled A-C#-E

If you were to do this to all of the chords in the A major scale you would get

5th	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D
3rd	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A	B
Root	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#
Chord Symbol	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G# <sup>o</sup>
Diatonic Chord	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii <sup>o</sup>

Stacked thirds have a certain look in music notation. It helps to think about building snowmen when writing triads.

