

Theory Sheet 5 davejonesguitar.co.uk

Chords

Chords are two or more notes sounded together. They are used to accompany songs or melodies.

Three note chords are known as 'triads'. The 1st note of a chord [the note that gives the chord its name] is called the 'root' note.

Triads can be constructed from the 1st, 3rd, and 5th notes from the major or natural minor scales.

Major Triads

The major triads spelling is :- 1 3 5

C major triad:- C E G

G major triad:- G B D

D major triad:- D F# A

F major triad:- F A C

Minor Triads

The minor triads spelling is:- 1 b3 5

A minor triad:- A C E

E minor triad:- E G B

B minor triad:- B D F#

D minor triad:- D F A

Notice the only difference between the major and minor triads is the 3rd degree. The major triad has a major 3rd interval between the 1st and the 3rd degree, the minor triad has a minor 3rd interval between the 1st and the 3rd degree. It is this interval that gives the major chord its 'happy' sound and the minor chord its 'sad' sound.