

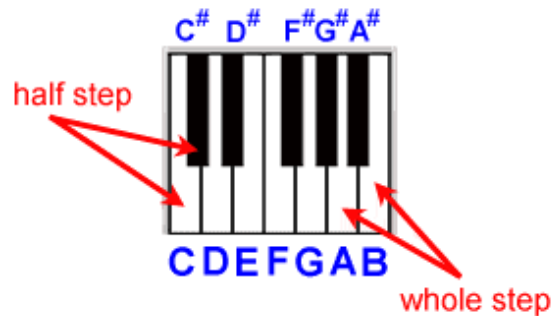
Intervals

Intervals

An interval is the distance between two notes. Intervals are always counted from the lower note to the higher one, with the lower note being counted as one. Intervals come in different qualities and size. If the notes are sounded successively, it is a melodic interval. If sounded simultaneously, then it is a harmonic interval.

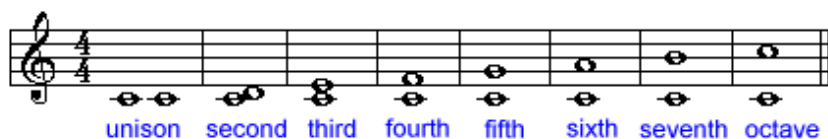
The smallest interval used in Western music is the half step. A visual representation of a half step would be the distance between a consecutive white and black note on the piano. There are two exceptions to this rule, as two natural half steps occur between the notes E and F, and B and C.

A whole step is the distance between two consecutive white or black keys. It is made up of two half steps.



Qualities and Size

Intervals can be described as Major (M), Minor (m), Perfect (P), Augmented (A) and Diminished (d). Intervals come in various sizes. Unisons, Seconds, Thirds, Fourths, Fifths, Sixths, and Sevenths, 2nds, 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths can be found as Major or Minor. Unisons, 4ths, 5ths and Octaves are Perfect.



Intervals

When a major interval is raised by a half step, it becomes augmented.

When a major interval is lowered by a half step, it becomes minor.

When a major interval is lowered by two half steps, it becomes diminished.

When a minor interval is raised by a half step, it becomes major.

When a minor interval is raised by two half steps, it becomes augmented.

When a minor interval is lowered by a half step, it becomes diminished.

When a perfect interval is raised by a half step, it becomes augmented.

When a perfect interval is lowered by a half step, it becomes diminished.

Inversions of intervals

Intervals can be inverted, which basically means you turn them upside down. The lower note is raised up an octave so that the top note/bottom note relationship is reversed. The chart below shows the inversions of intervals.

Qualities

- Major becomes Minor
- Minor becomes Major
- Perfect remains Perfect
- Augmented becomes Diminished
- Diminished becomes Augmented

Size

- 2 becomes 7
- 3 becomes 6
- 4 becomes 5
- 5 becomes 4
- 6 becomes 3
- 7 becomes 2

Interval Identification

It is important to be able to hear and identify intervals. This is a very important thing for musicians to do. Here is a list of familiar songs that will help you to identify the intervals

m2- Stormy Weather

M2- Happy Birthday

m3- The Impossible Dream or So Long, Farewell from The Sound of Music

M3- Halls of Montezuma

P4- Here comes the bride

A4- Maria from West Side Story

P5- Star Wars or Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

M6- NBC theme music

m7- Somewhere from West Side Story

M7- Bali Hai from South Pacific

Octave- Over the rainbow