

Triads derived from the major scale

The most common, basic chords used in any key center are derived from the scale being used. Shown below is the C major scale and the triads that are derived from the scale.

1. The letter name of each root is combined with a chord-quality designation to form a **chord symbol**. The four chord qualities are: major, minor, diminished and augmented (this chord is derived from the harmonic minor scale and does not occur in the major scale). The specific construction of the four chord qualities is explained in other articles.

The scale degrees are assigned in order as the notes appear in the scale. Below; C is scale degree 1, D is scale degree 2...and so on.

2. **Roman numerals** associate each scale degree with a chord quality. Major chords are upper case Roman numerals and augmented chords are also upper case numerals with an additional + symbol. Minor chords are lower case roman numerals. Diminished chords are also lower case with a small circle after the numeral. Chord qualities for each scale degree are consistent in all major scales: I, IV and V are major in all keys; ii, iv, and vi are minor; vii^o is diminished.

As an example: In C major, the chords that occur on the second, fifth and first (tonic) scale degrees are G major, D minor and C major. These chord symbols would be written Dm, G, C.

In Roman numerals it would be: ii, V, I.

Scale Degree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
C Major								
	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
Scale Degree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
C Major								
Chord Symbol	C Maj	D min	E min	F Maj	G Maj	A min	B dim	C Maj
Roman Numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii ^o	I

Assume Major Keys. Follow the first example to fill in missing notes, scale degrees, chord qualities and Roman numerals.

Example 1: Treble clef, C Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{5}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled C Maj.

Example 2: Treble clef, C Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{5}$ is indicated above the staff. The chords are labeled D min, G Maj, and C Maj. Roman numerals ii, V, and I are written below the staff.

Example 3: Treble clef, A Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{6}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled A Maj.

Example 4: Treble clef, F Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{2}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled F Maj. Roman numeral V is written below the staff.

Example 5: Treble clef, D Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{7}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled IV.

Example 6: Treble clef, D Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{2}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled D Maj. Roman numeral iii is written below the staff.

Example 7: Treble clef, G Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{1}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled G Maj. Roman numeral vii° is written below the staff.

Example 8: Treble clef, F Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{4}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled F Maj. Roman numeral vi is written below the staff.

Example 9: Treble clef, D Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{6}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled iii.

Example 10: Treble clef, D Major key signature. Scale degree $\hat{5}$ is indicated above the staff. The chord is labeled E min.