

# Practical Chords & Harmony: a Player's Guide

[www.practical-chords-and-harmony.com](http://www.practical-chords-and-harmony.com)

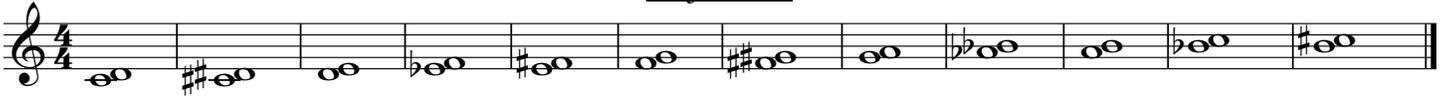
## Intervals

**Seconds** are usually either **Major (M)** or **Minor (m)**.

A M2 consists of 1 whole step; for example C to D, or E to F# - both are whole steps, or Major 2nds.

A m2 consists of 1/2 step: for example C to Db, or D to Eb or E to F - all are 1/2 steps, or Minor 2nds.

### Major 2nds



### Minor 2nds



**Thirds** are usually either **Major (M)** or **Minor (m)**.

A M3 consists of 2 whole steps; for example C to E and E to G# are both major 3rds.

A m3 consists of 1 whole step + 1/2 step: for example C to Eb and D to F are both minor 3rds.

### Major 3rds



### Minor 3rds



**Fourths** are usually **perfect (P)**.

A P4 consists of a M3 + 1/2 step. It can also be thought of as I and IV of a Major Scale.

### Perfect Fourths



**Fifths** are usually **perfect (P)**.

A P5 consists of a P4 + a whole step. It can also be thought of as I and V of a Major Scale.

### Fifths



**Sixths** are usually either **major** or **minor**.

A major sixth consists a P5 + M2; for example C to A and E to C# are both major 6ths.

A minor sixth consists a P5 + m2; for example C to Ab and D to Bb are both minor 6ths.

### Major 6ths



### Minor 6ths



**Sevenths** are usually either **major** or **minor**.

A major seventh consists a P5 + M3; for example C to B. It can also be thought of as 1/2 step below the octave.

A minor seventh consists a P5 + m3; for example C to Bb. It can also be thought of as a whole step below the octave.

### Major 7ths



### Minor 7ths



## Augmented & Diminished 4ths & 5ths

**Augmented intervals** sharpen (raise) the top note 1/2 step (but keep the same letter name.)

The **most common augmented intervals are 4ths & 5ths** (and occasionally, 2nds & 6ths.)

### Augmented 4ths



### Augmented 5ths



### Augmented 2nds



### Augmented 6ths



**Diminished intervals** flatten (lower) the top note 1/2 step (but keep the same letter name.)

The **most common diminished intervals are 5ths**. Diminished intervals other than 5ths are **extremely rare**.

### Diminished 5ths

