

## CHORDS- TYPES AND RULES

- There are 3 basic types of chords-

### **Major, Minor and Dominant**

- All of these chords have two notes in common- the **3<sup>rd</sup>** and the **7<sup>th</sup>** notes.  
But the quality of these notes change. Maj  $\Delta 3 \Delta 7$ ; Minor -3 -7; Dom  $\Delta 3 -7$

- **Major** and **Minor** chords have the same build of notes:

$$3^{\text{rd}} + 5^{\text{th}} + 7^{\text{th}} + 9^{\text{th}}$$

- **Dominant** chords have a different build of notes:

The only difference being the 6<sup>th</sup> note (which is a 5<sup>th</sup> for Min and Maj chords)

$$3^{\text{rd}} + 6^{\text{th}} \text{ (or } 13^{\text{th}}) + 7^{\text{th}} + 9^{\text{th}}$$

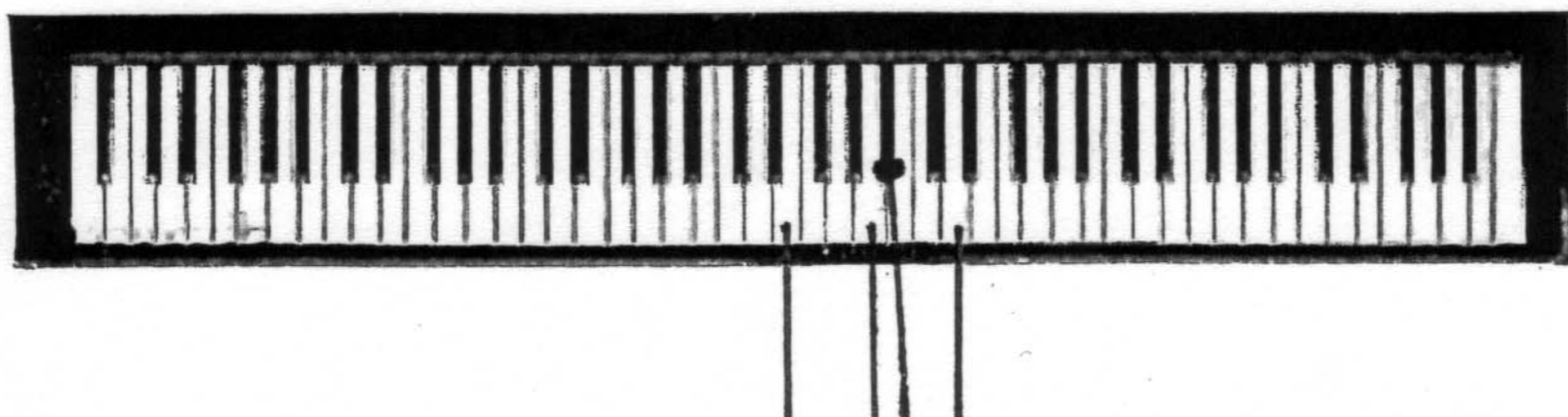
- 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> indications are used (rather than 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>) because it is important to understand that these notes are **added** to the chord, rather than replacing any notes.

- It may be easier to think of each note of the chord in intervals, rather than trying to recall each note of the scale like this:

Dominant chord-

$$3^{\text{rd}} \quad + \quad 6^{\text{th}} \quad + \quad 7^{\text{th}} \quad + \quad 9^{\text{th}}$$

Perfect 4<sup>th</sup> interval      Semi-tone      major 3<sup>rd</sup> interval



(Example: C7)

E+A+Bb+D

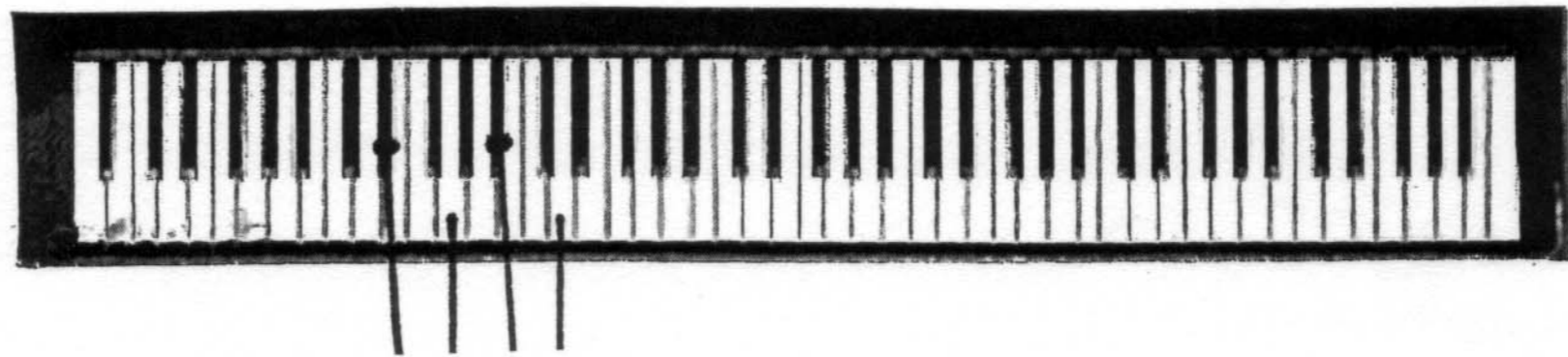
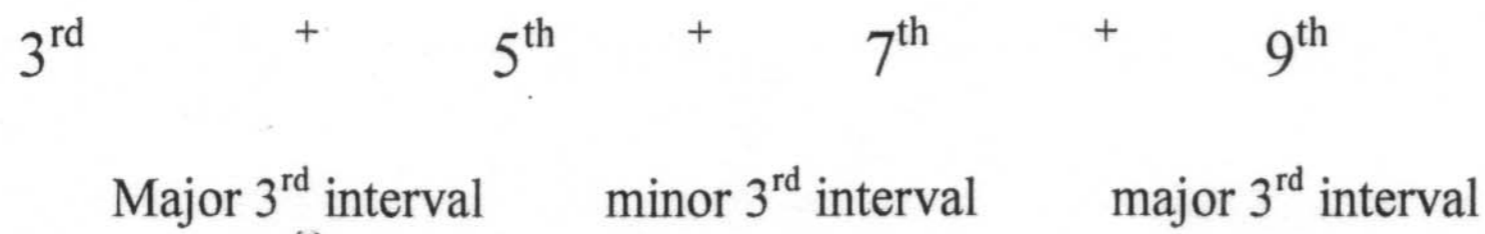
The perfect 4<sup>th</sup> interval is often hard to remember, here is a simple rule to make it easier:

4<sup>th</sup> interval on **white** notes- miss 2 white notes. Except F, which has 4<sup>th</sup> interval as Bb

4<sup>th</sup> interval on **Black** notes – miss 1 black note. Except F#, which has 4<sup>th</sup> interval as B

- Similar rules can be created for Maj and Min chords

**Minor chord:**

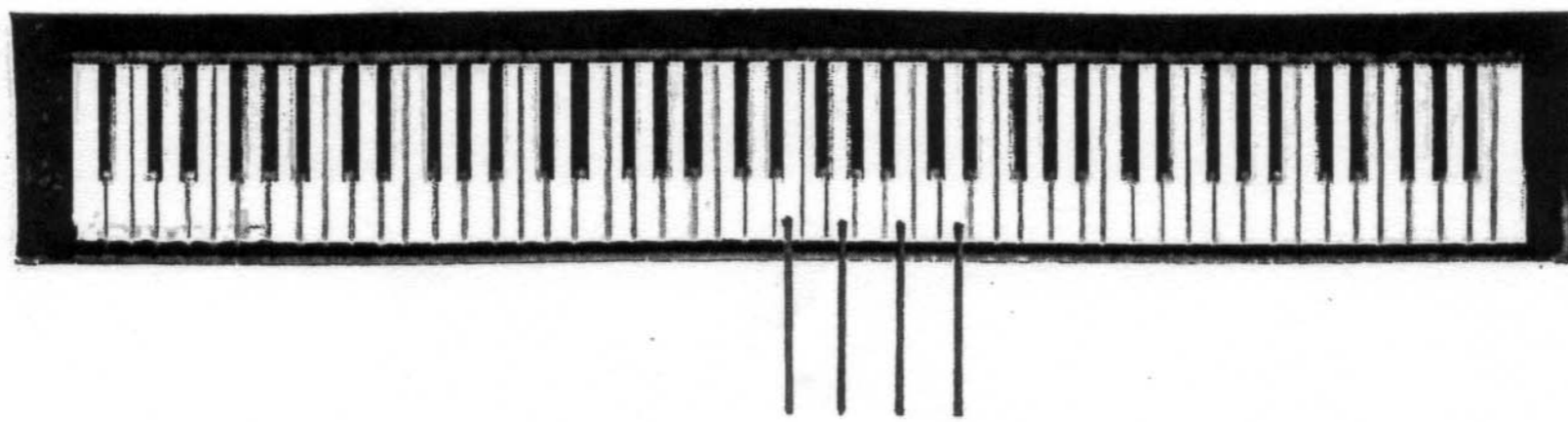
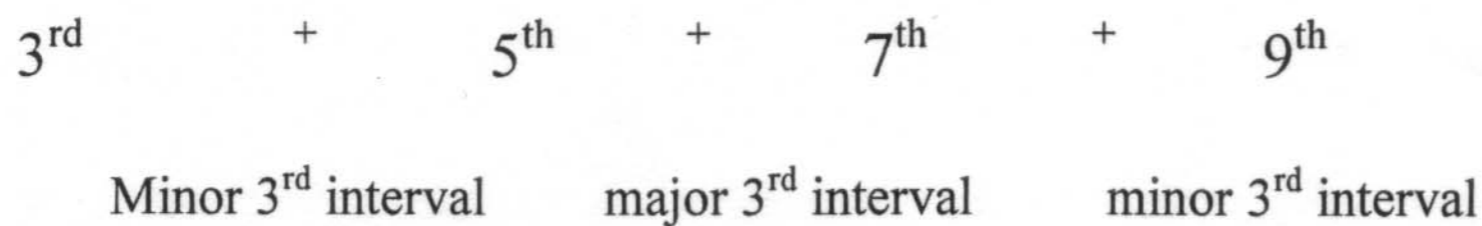


(Example C-7 (C minor) chord)    Eb+G+Bb+D

Another way of looking at this rule is to start with the Minor 3<sup>rd</sup> note and then play a Major 7 (non-jazz chord)

For a C-7 chord using this method;  
 Eb is the minor 3<sup>rd</sup> note, and then play the G + Bb + D which is the Major 7.

**Major chord:**



(Example C maj 7 (C major) chord)    E+G+B+D

Another way of looking at this rule is to start with the Major 3<sup>rd</sup> note and then play a Minor 7 (non-jazz chord)

For a C maj 7 chord using this method;  
 E is the major 3<sup>rd</sup> note, and then play the G + B + D which is the Minor 7.

- The difference between the Maj and Min is a semi-tone on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> notes.
- **Inversions:** Move the top 2 notes to the bottom *or* Move the bottom 2 notes to the top.