

BASIC THEORY: TRIADS

A chord in its most basic form is a triad, or a combination of 3 notes. Here is how to build a chord or triad.

Major triad: Start on a note, go **up 4 half-steps** (that gives you the **major third**), then go **up 3 more half-steps** (the **perfect fifth**).

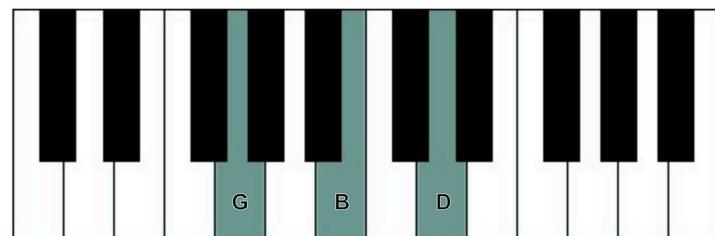
So it's **root – major third – perfect fifth**.

Each key on a piano is a half step, and each fret on a guitar/bass is a half step.

Examples:

G Major = G B D

C Major = C E G



Minor triad: Start on a note, go **up 3 half-steps** (the **minor third**), then go **up 4 more half-steps** (the **perfect fifth**).

So it's **root – minor third – perfect fifth**.

Examples:

G minor = G Bb D

C minor = C Eb G

