Chapter 11 Scale Degrees and Roman Numerals

In this chapter you will:

1. Identify notes with scale degree numbers
2. Draw notes given their scale degree numbers
3. Identify notes by scale degree names
4. Identify triads by scale degree of the root
5. Identify triads in order by Roman numerals: major keys
6. Identify triads in order by Roman numerals: minor keys
7. Identify triads, on random roots, by Roman numerals
8. Review and write triads given the key and Roman numeral

11.1 Identify notes with scale degree numbers

- A **scale degree** is a number or name of a note in a scale.
- **Scale degree numbers** are written with carets (^) on top.
- To identify notes as scale degrees in a certain key:
  1. Write the key under the key signature followed by a colon.
  2. Count the key note as 1.
  3. Then EITHER
     a. Count lines and spaces up to the note to be identified. OR
     b. count **down** the staff and **backwards**, "^7, ^6, ..."
  4. Under the note, write the number with a caret on top.

1. IDENTIFY the keys and scale degrees.
11.2 Draw notes given their scale degree numbers

1. WRITE the key in the space, WITH A COLON, and DRAW the note on the staff.

Example

\[\text{Example}\]

\[\text{D: } ^\circ 3 \quad ^\circ 4 \quad ^\circ 6 \quad 1 \quad 7 \quad 2\]

2. WRITE the key signatures and notes on the staff.

Example

\[\text{Example}\]

\[\text{D: } ^\circ 5 \quad \text{Bb: } ^\circ 2 \quad \text{A: } ^\circ 5 \quad \text{g#m: }^\circ 4 \quad \text{gm: }^\circ 1 \quad \text{cm: }^\circ 3\]

3. IDENTIFY the key and the scale degree of the root of these triads.

Example

\[\text{Example}\]

\[\text{F: } ^\circ 3 \quad \text{minor} \quad \text{minor}\]
11.3 Identify notes by scale degree names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale Degree</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tonic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Supertonic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mediant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Subdominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Submediant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Leading tone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each scale degree has a name as well as a number. Refer to the above chart to identify scale degrees by name.

IDENTIFY the notes in the following phrase by their scale degree names.

1. Tonic
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 
11. 

---

Gilbert DeBenedetti  www.pitt.edu/~deben
11.4 Identify triads by scale degree of the root

1. IDENTIFY the key and the scale degree name of the root of each triad.

2. IDENTIFY the key, the scale degree number of the root, and the type of triad (major, minor, diminished or augmented). Abbreviate the triad type.
11.5 Identify triads in order by their Roman numerals: major keys

- A triad’s Roman numeral shows both the scale degree of the root and the type of triad (major, minor, diminished or augmented).

- The scale degree of the root is shown by the Roman numeral itself. The numbers 1 – 7 in capital Roman numerals are:
  
  I   II   III   IV   V   VI   VII

- The type of triad is shown by how the Roman numeral is written and by symbols which sometimes follow:
  
  **Major** triads are written capital (Example 1 at the top of the page).  
  **Minor** triads are written lower case (Example 2)  
  **Diminished** triads are written lower case with a circle (Example 3).  
  **Augmented** triads are written upper case with a plus sign (Example 4).

---

1. IDENTIFY the triads with Roman numerals according to the chord type. The key signature applies to the whole line.
2. Then COMPARE how each numeral is written for the three keys.
11.6 Identify triads in order by their Roman numerals: minor keys

- This book uses the harmonic minor scale when triads are in minor keys.
- Recall that in harmonic minor 7 is raised a half step.

1. IDENTIFY the triads below with Roman numerals according to chord type, as in the previous page. NOTICE the minor keys and the raised 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bm:</th>
<th>i</th>
<th>III+</th>
<th></th>
<th>VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gm:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cm:</td>
<td></td>
<td>ii7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11.7 Identify triads on random roots by Roman numerals

Major Keys: I ii iii IV V vi vii°

Harmonic Minor: i ii° III+ iv V VI vii°

The previous two worksheets demonstrate that:
• The order of triad types on successive scale degrees is the same for all major keys, and
• Another order holds for all minor keys using the harmonic minor scale.
• The chart at the top of the page shows the sequences with Roman numerals.

1. MEMORIZE the order of triad types in major and harmonic minor.
2. IDENTIFY the keys and Roman numerals for the following triads.

Example

A: vii°

MINOR KEYS!

bmin:
11.8 Review and write triads given the key and Roman numeral

- Sometimes accidentals are written beside Roman numerals to remind you that a chord tone is raised in harmonic minor.
  
  However, there is no way to show that the root of vii° is raised. An accidental by itself means raise the third.

1. WRITE the key signature and triad according to the Roman numeral. RAISE 7 in minor keys. Accidentals do not appear next to vii° as reminders.

   D: ii  Gb: V  f min: V7  g min: III75#

   c# min: V#  e min: vii°  f# min: vii°  G: IV

2. IDENTIFY the key, Roman numeral, and scale degree name of the root. All keys are MINOR.

3. IDENTIFY the key and the Roman numerals for this music. Combine the notes above each brace to complete a triad. WHAT IS THIS ACCOMPANIMENT?