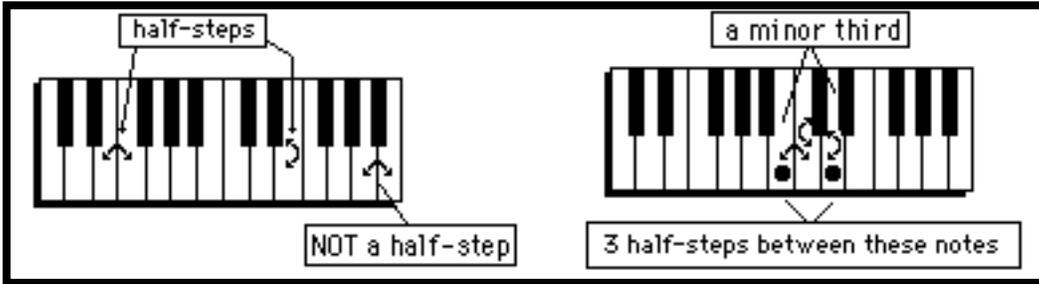


# Chapter 9 More about thirds and minor keys

In this chapter you will:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Count the half-steps in major and minor thirds | 5. Write minor scales                       |
| 2. Write major and minor thirds                   | 6. Write minor key signatures and scales    |
| 3. Identify and write 3rds with key signatures    | 7. Write minor keys on the circle of fifths |
| 4. Write relative major and minor key signatures  |   |



## 9.1 Count the half-steps in major and minor thirds

- Recall from Book 1 that a half-step is the distance between two notes which have no notes in between on the keyboard, whether black or white (worksheet 4.1).
- A major third always has a distance of 4 half steps
- A minor third always has a distance of 3 half-steps.

1. WRITE the number of half-steps between the notes marked with dots.



How many? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. WRITE letter names on the white keys of this keyboard.



3. IDENTIFY these thirds as major or minor by counting half steps on the above keyboard.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a treble clef with five notes: C, E, G, B, and D. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a 3/4 time signature and a sequence of chords: C major, D minor, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The text 'Play this!' is written to the right of the bottom staff.

## Pathways to Harmony, Chapter 3. Basic Rhythms

### 9.2 Write major and minor thirds

Diagram illustrating three intervals on a staff, corresponding to the keyboard diagram above:

- Maj 3rd:** Interval between E (line) and G (line). One letter (F) in between.
- Not a 3rd:** Interval between E (line) and G (space). Two letters (F, A) in between.
- Not a 3rd:** Interval between E (space) and G (line). No letters in between.

- The distance of a third on the staff is always line to line or space to space.
- There is one and only one letter between the two letter names in a third.  
All three intervals in the above example are played the same and sound the same. Yet only the first interval is written as a third.
- When writing thirds by figuring out half steps,  
first write the noteheads as thirds  
then add sharps or flats

1. WRITE the missing notes for each third. Find them by counting half-steps on the keyboard on the previous page.

A down arrow means write a note below the given note.

An up arrow means write a note above the given note.

Musical notation for five intervals:

- Maj 3rd ↑
- min 3rd ↑
- Maj 3rd ↓
- min 3rd ↓
- min 3rd ↑

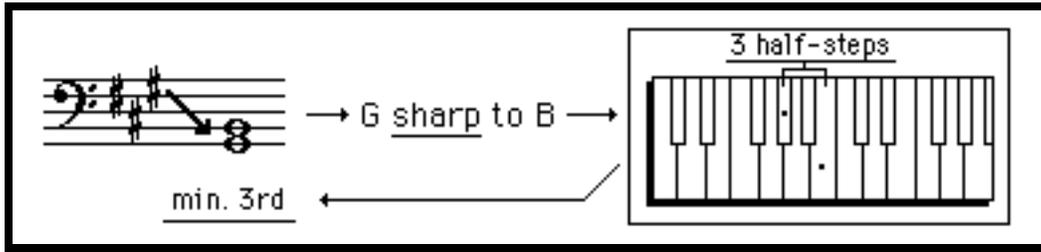
2. WRITE the noteheads next to the stems in this tune.

FILL THEM IN if you are given quarter notes.

Musical notation for a tune with six quarter notes and interval labels below:

- min 3rd ↓
- min 3rd ↑
- min 3rd ↓
- min 3rd ↑
- Maj 3rd ↓
- min 3rd ↑

### 9.3 Identify and write 3rds with key signatures



- Recall that the sharps and flats in a key signature alter the notes on the staff.
- To cancel a sharp or flat which appears in the key signature, use a natural sign,  $\natural$ , next to the note.

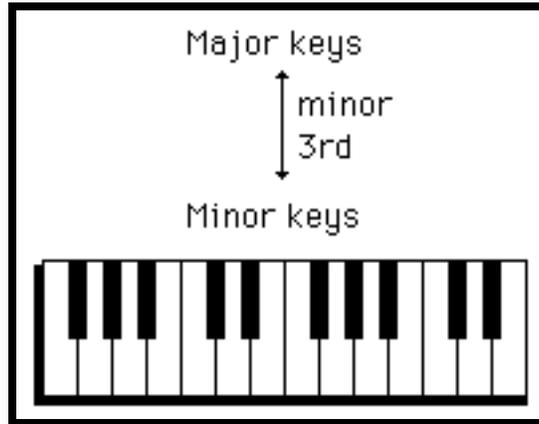
1. IDENTIFY these thirds as major or minor. Use the keyboard above.

The first exercise consists of three parts. At the top left, a bass clef staff shows a G sharp note and a B note, with an arrow pointing to a keyboard diagram. The keyboard diagram shows a 3-half-step interval between G sharp and B, labeled "3 half-steps". Below the bass staff, the text "min. 3rd" is written. Below the keyboard diagram, the text "G sharp to B" is written. At the bottom, a treble clef staff shows the lyrics "Deck the halls with boughs of hol - ly." with musical notation for each word.

2. WRITE these thirds.

The second exercise consists of two staves. The first staff is in treble clef and contains four intervals: a minor third up (min 3rd ↑), a major third up (Maj 3rd ↑), a minor third down (min 3rd ↓), and a major third down (Maj 3rd ↓). The second staff is in bass clef and contains four intervals: a minor third down (min 3rd ↓), a major third up (Maj 3rd ↑), a minor third down (min 3rd ↓), and a major third down (Maj 3rd ↓).

9.4 Write relative major and minor keys



- Minor keys are a minor third below their relative major keys. Recall from Book 1 (Worksheet 6.8) that minor keys are three half-steps and three letter names below their relative major keys. In this chapter this distance has been named a minor third.

1. WRITE the major and minor keys for each key signature. Write the major keys with capital letters and the minor keys lower case.

Example

Maj. key  $A^b$     \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

min. key  $f$     \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

2. WRITE the major key and the key signature for each minor key.

Example

Maj. key  $D$     \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

min. key  $b$      $g$      $f^\#$      $c$      $d^\#$      $d$      $b^b$

## 9.5 Write minor scales

- To write a minor scale given the key signature:
  1. find the major key
  2. go down a minor third to find the relative minor key (and key note)
- Recall from Book 1 that:
  - in natural minor scales, the notes conform to the key signature
  - in harmonic minor scales, scale degree 7 is raised a half-step
  - in melodic minor scales, scale degrees 6 and 7 are raised a half-step when the scale goes up, and they are lowered to match the key signature when the scale comes down

WRITE these minor scales.

natural minor

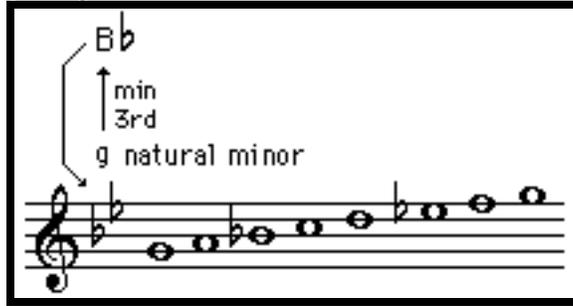
melodic minor

harmonic minor

natural minor

melodic minor

9.6 Write minor key signatures and scales



- To write a minor scale given the minor key:
  1. find the relative major key by going up a minor third
  2. write the key signature and scale beginning on the minor key note

WRITE these minor scales

f melodic minor

f# harmonic minor

c natural minor

g# melodic minor

e harmonic minor

eb natural minor

### 9.7 Write minor keys in the circle of fifths

WRITE the major keys, minor keys and key signatures on this circle of fifths.

