

EXERCISE 3.2 - LESSON

BUILDING MAJOR TRIADS

FORMULA FOR BUILDING MAJOR TRIADS IN ROOT POSITION: UP 4 HALF-STEPS, UP 3 HALF-STEPS

ROOT POSITION

FIRST INVERSION

SECOND INVERSION

1.

Exercise 1 shows the D-flat major triad in three positions. In root position, the notes are D-flat (root), F (third), and A-flat (fifth). In first inversion, the notes are F (root), A-flat (third), and D-flat (fifth). In second inversion, the notes are A-flat (root), D-flat (third), and F (fifth). The root D-flat is explicitly labeled in the root position.

2.

Exercise 2 shows the D major triad in three positions. In root position, the notes are D (root), F-sharp (third), and A (fifth). In first inversion, the notes are F-sharp (root), A (third), and D (fifth). In second inversion, the notes are A (root), D (third), and F-sharp (fifth). The root D is explicitly labeled in the root position.

3.

Exercise 3 shows the E-flat major triad in three positions. In root position, the notes are E-flat (root), G (third), and B-flat (fifth). In first inversion, the notes are G (root), B-flat (third), and E-flat (fifth). In second inversion, the notes are B-flat (root), E-flat (third), and G (fifth). The root E-flat is explicitly labeled in the root position.

DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR WORK BY EAR!

The exercise is set to the melody of "The Star Spangled Banner" in 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE". The notes are: OH (D4), SAY (F4), CAN (A4), YOU (G4), SEE (F4). A bracket labeled "MAJOR TRIAD (ROOT)" is placed over the notes SAY, CAN, and YOU, which form an F major triad (F, A, C). Fingerings are indicated: 5 for OH, 3 for SAY, 1 for CAN, 3 for YOU, and 1 for SEE. The notes SOL, MI, DO, MI, SOL, DO are written below the staff for the first six notes of the melody.