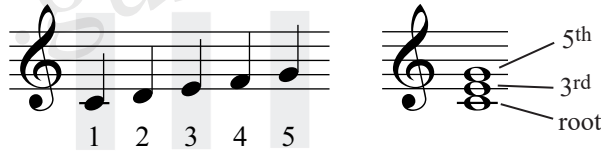


# Chord Theory



## Triads

A chord is a combination of three or more notes. The most basic chord is called a **triad**, which is formed by taking a bass note/root and adding two other notes a 3<sup>rd</sup> and a 5<sup>th</sup> above.



There are 4 types of triad: major, minor, diminished, and augmented.

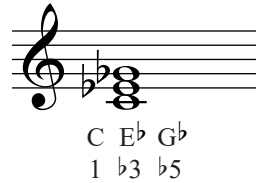
### 1. Major



### 2. Minor



### 3. Diminished



### 4. Augmented



## ▶ 56 The Harmonised Scale

The major scale can be harmonised by building a triad on each scale degree, as shown below. This chord scale is very easy to play on the piano, but unfortunately much harder on the guitar! Pay close attention to the fingering because many of the notes are not played on the usual strings/frets.

C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim.	C
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Name: Tonic	Supertonic	Mediant	Subdominant	Dominant	Submediant	Leading note	Tonic

Each scale degree is given a name, as shown above, which is shared by the chord built on that scale degree. The most important chords/triads are the tonic (I), the dominant (V), and the subdominant (IV). These are called the **primary chords**. The other chords are called the **secondary chords**. The pattern of triad types is the same for all major scales: i.e. I, IV, and V are always major; II, III, and VI are always minor; and VII is always diminished (you don't hear this chord as often as the others).

## Note Doubling

When you play chords on the guitar, there are usually more than three notes involved. For example, the chord of C is normally played as shown here: although there are five notes in this chord, all of the notes are either C, E, or G. It is therefore still a C major triad. All that has happened is that some of the notes have been **doubled** to make a fuller sound.

C major chord

