

Building Block No. 3:  
Discovering 1-3-5 is as Easy as 1-2-3  
**How to Form a Major Triad**

**Chord:**

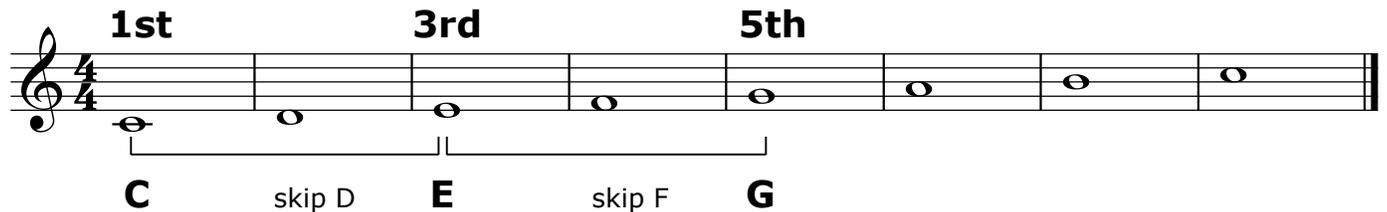
When three or more notes sound at the same time, you are hearing (or playing) a chord. Although notes played together create a chord, how the notes are related to each other is very important. More about that later.

**Triad:**

A chord composed of three notes is considered to be a triad. "Tri" refers to the number three (3) as in the word "triangle" (a three sided figure).

**The Major Triad:**

The major triad is a chord made up of three (3) specific notes that are in the major scale. Note: if you are having difficulty remembering how to form a major scale, review **Building Block No. 2: Scaling the Summit is as Simple as Do-Re-Mi: The Major Scale**



**The Root:**

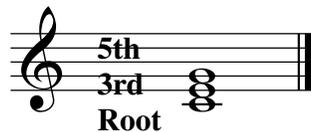
Although the **first** note of the major **scale** is the same as the **first** note of the major **chord**, the letter name of the chord is called the **Root**.

Here's the good news...

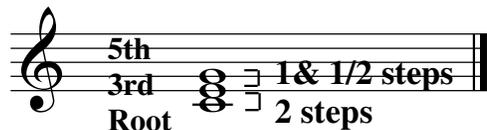
From now on you will know two things about every major chord:

1. The **Root** of every chord is its letter name.
2. The **Root** of the chord is the **first** note of the major scale that has the same letter name.

This is how the **Major Triad** looks on the staff:



What if you don't know how to form the major scale that has the same letter names as the chord? There's a simple solution: use the **step** method (see **Building Block No. 1: Unlocking the Secret System of the Black & White Keys: Half Steps & Whole Steps**).



One more important point to remember:

**Chords** are **every other** letter name while **scales** are **every successive** letter name.