

## Chordin' the Blues Lesson 2 - Major Triads

### Major Triads

As I stated on the Basic Harmony page, there are four types or "qualities" of triads. Here we'll look at the major triads.

Major triads are derived from a major scale, as was illustrated in the above diagram. The note that makes a chord major or minor is the 3rd. In a major triad, the 3rd is found the distance of a major third (4 frets) up from the root. If you flat the 3rd - lower it by one half-step (1 fret) - the chord becomes minor.

The following chords are all major triads in all inversions and in both open and closed positions.

<i>root position</i> G	<i>1st inversion</i> G	<i>2nd inversion</i> G	<i>root position</i> C	<i>1st inversion</i> C	<i>2nd inversion</i> C

*chord members*

1 3 5      3 5 1      5 1 3      1 3 5      3 5 1      5 1 3

<i>root position</i> G	<i>1st inversion</i> G	<i>2nd inversion</i> G	<i>root position</i> C	<i>1st inversion</i> C	<i>2nd inversion</i> C

1 3 5      3 5 1      5 1 3      1 3 5      3 5 1      5 1 3

### Major Chord Inversions (closed position)

<i>root position</i> A	<i>1st inversion</i> A	<i>2nd inversion</i> A	<i>root position</i> D	<i>1st inversion</i> D	<i>2nd inversion</i> D

*root position*      *1st inversion*      *2nd inversion*

Major Chord Inversions (open position)

Have fun with these for now and look at the G major triad study. Continue to Minor Triads. It illustrates some common ways of moving around with the inversions.

Til next time.  
JG

Major Chord Inversions (open position)

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Til next time.  
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