

MAJOR, MINOR & PERFECT INTERVALS

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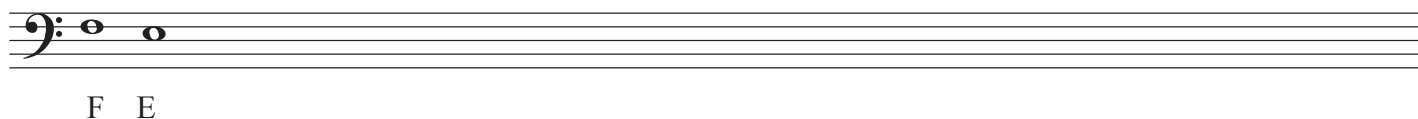
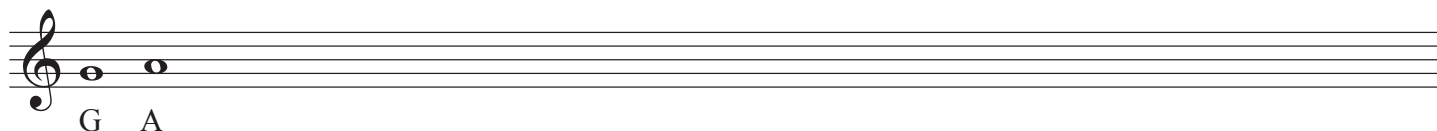
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Theory Studies

Worksheet 4

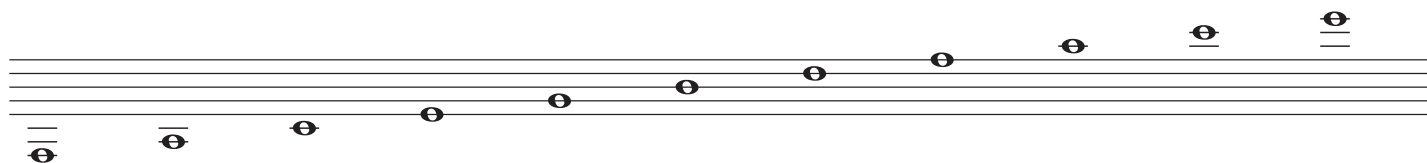
Instructions: These worksheets assume that you have watched the music theory videos posted on Cascadia's website. If you don't understand everything on the worksheet, review the video or email me. You can also ask lots of questions during our 11 o'clock Thursday morning Zoom sessions. Happy Music Learning!!

1. Intervals are ALWAYS numerically identified according to their line/space relationship. Half Steps and Whole Steps are always SECONDS. They will always be an adjacent line and space. Whole Steps are called MAJOR 2nd; Half Steps are called MINOR 2nd. You already know the Half Steps and Whole Steps in the musical alphabet. Write a few Major 2nds on the first line and a few Minor Seconds on the bass clef line.

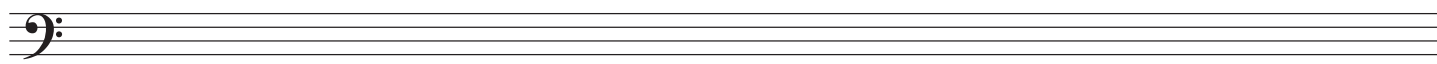
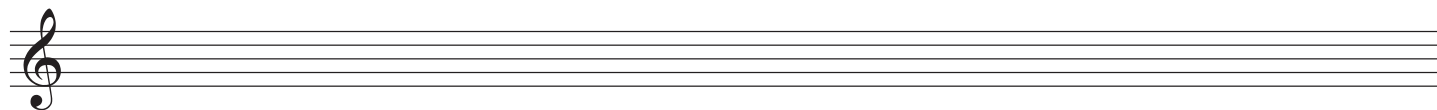


2. Adjacent lines and adjacent spaces are called 3rds. They also skip an alphabetical letter. MAJOR 3rds are 4 Half Steps (also 2 Whole Steps). MINOR 3rds are 3 Half Steps (also called a step and a half.)

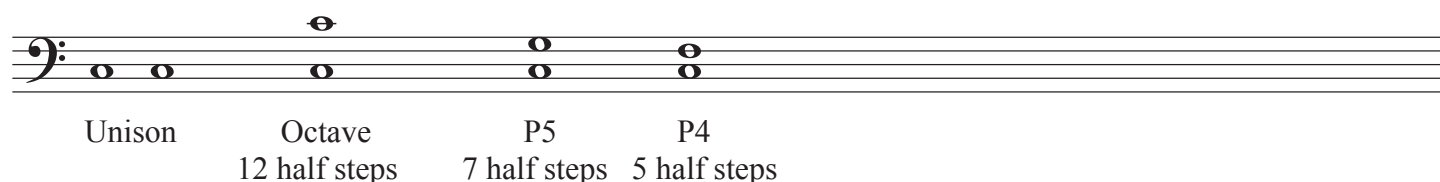
Here is a trick question....can you identify the following 3rds as Major 3rds and Minor 3rds?



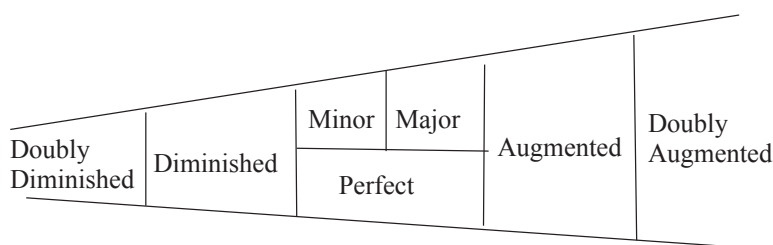
Answer: Not without a clef!!! Copy and identify the thirds on the following staves.



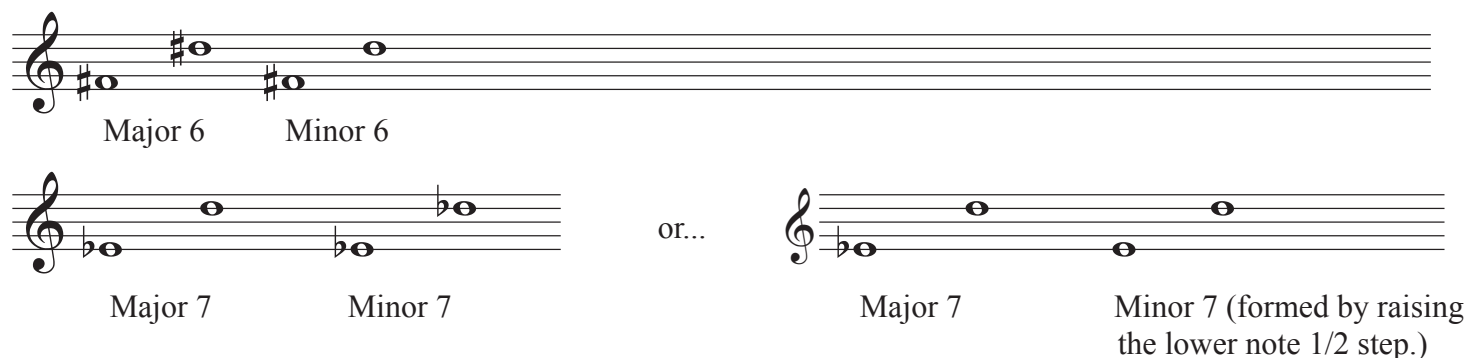
3. Let's talk PERFECT INTERVALS. What makes them perfect? It has to do with sound waves. Imagine a guitar string. When you play the note at exactly 1/2 of the length of the string, you play the OCTAVE, an exact 2:1 ratio. UNISONS are exact--1:1 ratio. 5ths are a 3:2 ratio, and 4ths are a 4:3 ratio. There are many online resources for the explanation of sound waves. It's a fun side track to explore.



Here's another interesting fact about PERFECT intervals. You have probably already figured out that a Major 3rd becomes a Minor 3rd if you decrease it by one half step. And vice versa. BUT...Perfect intervals never become Major or Minor. Perfect intervals become AUGMENTED when increased by one Half Step, and they becoming DIMINISHED when they are decreased by one Half Step. We'll talk more about this later. Here's a great image about how intervals work. Copy this a few times until you can do it from memory.



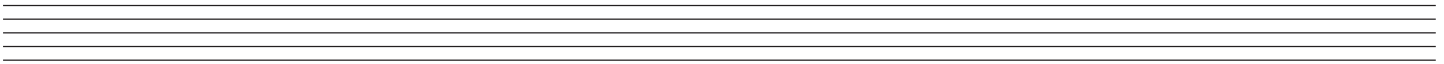
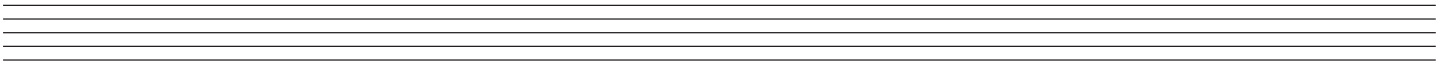
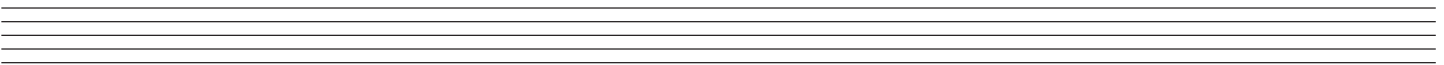
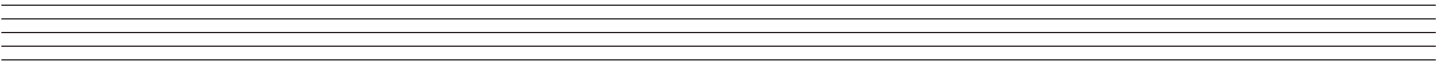
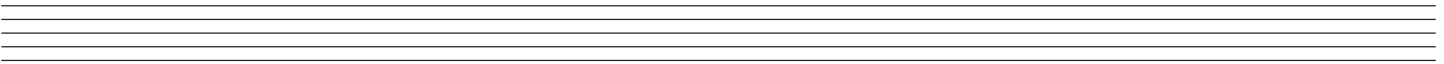
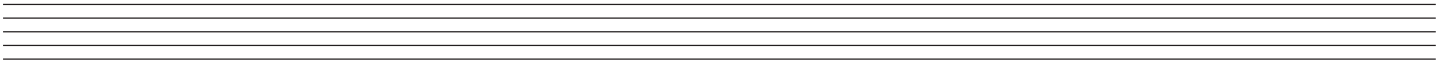
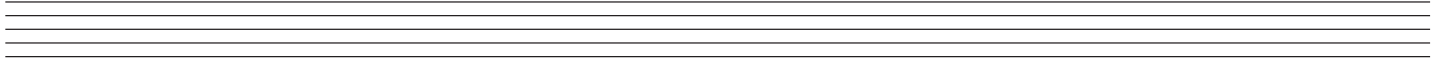
4. Sixths and Sevenths are Major/Minor intervals. Major 6ths are 9 Half Steps; Minor 6ths are 8. Major 7ths are 11 Half Steps; Minor 7ths are 10.



5. For now, we'll only be working with Major, Minor, and Perfect intervals. Following is another helpful interval chart. In a couple of weeks, we'll add Augmented and Diminished intervals.

- m2 - 1 half-step
- M2 - 2 half-steps; one whole-step
- m3 - 3 half-steps
- M3 - 4 half-steps; 2 whole-steps
- P4 - 5 half-steps; M3 + 1 half-step
- P5 - 7 half-steps; M3 + m3
- m6 - 8 half-steps; P5 + 1 half-step
- M6 - 9 half-steps; P5 + M2
- m7 - 10 half-steps; P5 + m3
- M7 - 11 half-steps; P5 + M3
- P8 - 12 half-steps; P5 + P4

6. Fill each SYSTEM (line of music) with 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, 7ths, and 8ths. Identify each interval as Major, Minor, or Perfect. As you gain confidence, begin to use sharps and flats as a challenge. Don't forget to write the clef!



IMPORTANT!!! Please don't feel that you need to be fluent with intervals at this point. In your leisure time, and at your own interest level, repeat the exercise on this page. It won't take too long, and in another couple of weeks we'll be adding key signatures! Way to go, musicians!!