

Chapter 7 Intervals

Vocabulary

Interval

- harmonic interval
- melodic interval

Arithmetic distance of an interval – see p. 126 for description of distances

Interval quality

- Perfect (P) (Only Unisons, 4ths, 5ths, Octaves)
- Major (M) (Major and minor intervals are only 2nds, 3rds, 6ths, 7ths)
- Minor (m or -)
- Augmented (A or +)
- Diminished (d or °)
- Double Augmented (AA)
- Double Diminished (dd)

Major and Minor Intervals smallest to largest (2nds, 3ths, 6ths, 7ths)
dd-d-m-M-A-AA

Perfect Intervals smallest to largest (Unisons, 4ths, 5ths, Octaves)
dd-d-P-A-AA

Type	Number of Half Steps
Perfect Unison	0
Minor 2 nd /Augmented Unison	1
Major 2 nd /Diminished 3 rd	2
Minor 3 rd /Augmented 2 nd	3
Major 3 rd /Diminished 4 th	4
Perfect 4 th /Augmented 3 rd	5
Aug 4 th /Diminished 5 th	6
Perfect 5 th /Diminished 6 th	7
Aug 5 th /Minor 6 th	8
Major 6 th /Diminished 7 th	9
Aug 6 th /Minor 7 th	10
Major 7 th /Diminished Octave	11
Perfect Octave/Augmented 7 th	12

Making an interval smaller or changes its type one notch each time:

Example: P4 = 5 half-steps, D4 = 4, DD4=3 or the same as the minor 2nd!

Conversely, one can start with a P4 interval at 5 half-steps and make it larger to A4 to AA4 or the same as a P5 at 7 half-steps!

Compound intervals: larger than one octave

Harmonic inversion of intervals:

When the bottom or top note is reversed an octave lower or higher created the inverted interval: sum = 9.

Example: P4 using pitches C-G would invert to a P5 pitches C-G, sum of two interval sizes = 9

Suggested exercises:

1. Try the Practice Materials on pp. 141-153
2. Work through the Focus on Skills 3 exercises on pp. 155-157.