

The Dyads: 2-"Harmonizers"

(Major and minor 3rds and 6ths)

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Diagram illustrating four dyads (Major 3rd, minor 3rd, Major 6th, and minor 6th) in C3, C \flat 3, C6*, and C \flat 6* chords. The notation shows the upper and lower notes for each dyad in a 4/4 time signature.

(* This Dyad terminology for 6ths is not widely applied on actual chord-charts. The reasons go beyond our needs here. Our purpose is to learn how to build these Dyads and use them in our playing and composing.)

6 1. Diatonic 3rds. Mixing Major and minor. What's going on here??

Diagram illustrating a sequence of diatonic 3rds (Major 3rds and minor 3rds) in a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows the upper and lower notes for each dyad.

(Diatonic 3rds running up the scale create 3 Major 3rds and 4 minor 3rds. These are the basic intervals for the CHORDS we use to play music on the Piano. These Dyads have a very pleasant/consonant sound, good also for vocal harmonizing.)

11 2. Now, Invert the 3rds by dropping the upper tone down an octave. This gives us the Diatonic 6ths. Sound similar?

Diagram illustrating inverted diatonic 3rds (Major 6ths and minor 6ths) in a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows the upper and lower notes for each dyad. (Notice that the Major 3rds invert to minor 6ths.)

16 3. Many Piano compositions feature passages where 3rds are played in sequences like these.

Diagram illustrating a sequence of 3rds in a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows the upper and lower notes for each dyad, with fingering numbers (1-5) for the right hand.