

Diatonic Chords

Chords built from the tones of the major and minor scales are called **diatonic chords**.

MAJOR

The Major Scale

Scale degrees: $\hat{1}$ $\hat{2}$ $\hat{3}$ $\hat{4}$ $\hat{5}$ $\hat{6}$ $\hat{7}$

7-tone scale

DIATONIC TRIADS

Key: C: I ii iii IV V vi vii°

Roman numerals: I ii iii IV V vi vii°

Chord types: **M, m, d**

DIATONIC SEVENTH CHORDS

C: I^{(M7)*} ii⁷ iii⁷ IV^{M7} V⁷ vi⁷ vii^{°7}

Chord types: **mm, MM, Mm, dm**

MINOR

The Minor Scale

Scale degrees: $\hat{1}$ $\hat{2}$ $\hat{3}$ $\hat{4}$ $\hat{5}$ $\hat{6}$ $\hat{7}$

9-tone scale

$\hat{1}\hat{6}$ $\hat{1}\hat{6}$ $\hat{1}\hat{7}$ $\hat{1}\hat{7}$

COMMON DIATONIC TRIADS **

c: i ii[°] III iv V VI vii[°]

Chord types: **m, d, M**

COMMON DIATONIC SEVENTH CHORD TYPES **

c: i^{(7)*} ii^{°7} III^{M7} iv⁷ V⁷ VI^{M7} vii^{°7}

Chord types: **dm, MM, mm, Mm, dd**

OTHER DIATONIC TRIADS

c: ii III⁺ IV v vi[°] VII

* Although I^{M7} (major) and i⁷ (minor) are commonly used in jazz, they are rarely employed in common-practice period (1650-1900) tonal music.
 ** Other diatonic triads (see boxed triads above) and seventh chords (not shown) may be built in similar fashion.