

Diatonic Chords in Major and Minor Keys

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

MAJOR

The Major Scale

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

DIATONIC TRIADS

Key: C: Roman numerals: I ii iii IV V vi vii^o

Chord types:
M, m, d

DIATONIC SEVENTH CHORDS

C: I ii⁷ iii⁷ IV^{M7} V⁷ vi⁷ vii^{o7}

Chord types:
mm, MM, Mm, dm

MINOR

The Minor Scale

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

$\flat 6$ $\flat 6$ $\flat 7$ $\flat 7$

COMMON DIATONIC TRIADS **

c: i ii^o III iv V VI vii^o

Chord types:
m, d, M

COMMON DIATONIC SEVENTH CHORD TYPES **

c: i ii^{o7} III^{M7} iv⁷ V⁷ VI^{M7} vii^{o7}

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

OTHER DIATONIC TRIADS

c: ii III⁺ IV v vi^o 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 *diatonic seventh chords* may be built in similar fashion.