

(Book 3) Lesson 12b.

Practical Intervals

The following examples, catalogue the intervals that would be commonly used with "C" as the Key Note.

Major Second Minor Second Dim. Second Aug. second




2 b2 bb2 #2

Major Third Minor Third Dim. Third Aug. Third



3 b3 bb3 #3

Perfect Fourth Diminished Fourth Augmented Fourth



4 b4 #4

Perfect Fifth Diminished Fifth Augmented Fifth




5 b5 #5

Major Sixth Minor Sixth Dim. Sixth Aug. Sixth



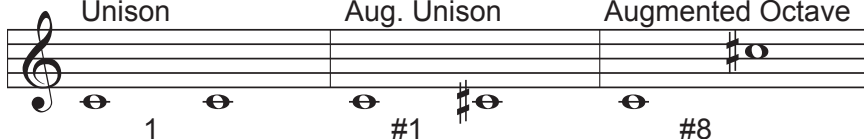
6 b6 bb6 #6

Major Seventh Minor Seventh Dim. Seventh (Aug. Seventh)
(never used)



7 b7 bb7 (#7?)

Unison Aug. Unison Augmented Octave



1 #1 #8

Knowing the Key Signatures absolutely "cold" will play an important part in speedy identification and calculation of any interval.

Notice that in a Diminished or Augmented interval of any numerical degree, neither one of the notes belongs to the Major Scale of the other note.

In a Minor Interval, the lower note belongs to the Major Scale of the higher note but not the other way around.

A good way to practice identifying intervals is to write random pairs of letter names on some piece of paper. It does not even have to be music manuscript.

i.e. Identify the following intervals.

- Bb to C D to G A to Eb B to C
 - F to Ab E to Db G to B Db to G
 - F# to C# A to G# Eb to Ab G to Db
- etc.

You might come across some intervals which may be difficult to identify.

i.e. D# to Gbb = Triply Diminished 4th? This would be a highly unlikely pair of notes to encounter in any melodic or harmonic situation. Keep in mind that we do not generally assume, that there is such a Key as D# Major. We would usually defer to its enharmonic equivalent which is the Key of Eb. Keep the puzzles practical rather than academic.

Leave the funny ideas to written music examinations.

The lowest note of an interval is said to be the Key Note.

An interval with "D" as the lowest note is in the Key of "D". (F#, C#)

An interval with "F" as the lowest note is in the Key of "F". (Bb)

An interval with "Ab" as the lowest note is in the Key of "Ab". (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db)

etc.