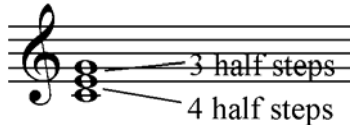


Chord Notation

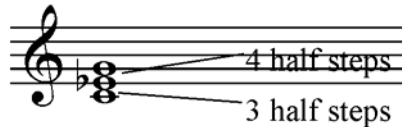
Dr. Glen Newton, July 14, 2006

Background

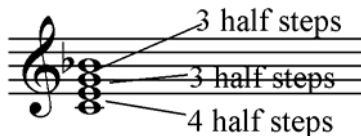
Major:



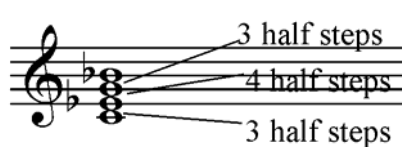
Minor:



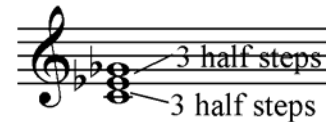
Dominant 7th:



Minor 7th:



Diminished:



Notation

“/” means to repeat the previous chord on the next beat. “|” is a bar line. “||” is a double bar line, typically used to indicate the end of a verse or chorus.

Example: G /// | G7 /// | C /// | G /// | D7 /// | G /// | A7 /// | D7 /// |

To give a chord progression in general terms, so that it can be played in any key, chord roots are written as Roman numerals that designate the root of the chord. Thus “I” is the first degree of the scale and “IV” is the fourth degree of the scale.

The progression below, using Roman numerals, is the generic version of the chord progression above. Note that because the song is in the key of G, the “I” chord root is G, the “IV” is C, and the “II” is A. The chord modifications (the 7ths in this example) apply no matter what key the song is in.

Example: I /// | I7 /// | IV /// | I /// | V7 /// | I /// | II7 /// | V7 /// |

If we put this generic chord progression into the key of C, “I”, “II”, and “IV” would be the chord roots C, D, and F, so the progression would be as follows:

Example: C /// | C7 /// | F /// | C /// | G7 /// | C /// | D7 /// | G7 /// |

In these class notes, “b” means “flat”, “#” means “sharp”, “m” means “minor”, and “dim” means “diminished.” If minor or diminished aren’t written, the chord is major. For example, the chord “Eb” is E-flat major, and the chord “Fm” is F minor.

To indicate a specific bass note for a chord, the chord has a line under it, with the bass note under the line. In these notes, a diagonal line is used. For example, F/G denotes an F major chord over a G in the bass.