

Diatonic Triads (1 of 2)

A triad is a type of chord. "Triad" just means holding down every other note until you're playing three of them. "Diatonic" means that you're playing with only the notes from a particular scale. So, if someone in your band says "We're in the key of C, and we're playing the 1 chord followed by the 5 chord," you would play triads starting on those numbers from the C scale:

Diatonic 1 triad in the key of C:

Diatonic 5 triad in the key of C:

Only the notes from the C major scale are listed, because the notes of a "diatonic" triad must be taken from a particular scale.

If he says, "We're in the key of D and we're playing the 1 chord followed by the 4 chord," here is what you'd play:

Diatonic 1 triad in the key of D:

Diatonic 4 triad in the key of D:

Only the notes from the D major scale are listed, because the notes of a "diatonic" triad must be taken from a particular scale.

Diatonic Triads (2 of 2)

Here is a list of all the diatonic triads in every major and minor key. First, find what key you're in on the left side. Each of the chords listed after that is diatonic to that key, meaning that the notes in all the chords are found inside that scale. That means that when you're in a given key, you can use any of the chords listed after it without sounding out of place by going outside the key.

	Major							Natural Minor (Major with lowered 3, 6, & 7)						
#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chord Quality*	M	m (-)	m (-)	M	M	m (-)	o	m (-)	o	M	m (-)	M	M	M
7th Quality**	$\Delta 7$	-7	-7	$\Delta 7$	7	-7	o	-7	o	$\Delta 7$	-7	7	$\Delta 7$	7
Key of C	C	D-	E-	F	G	A-	B \emptyset	C-	D \emptyset	E \flat	F-	G	A \flat	B \flat
Key of D \flat	D \flat	E \flat -	F-	G \flat	A \flat	B \flat -	C \emptyset	D \flat -	E $\flat\emptyset$	F \flat	G \flat -	A \flat	B $\flat\flat$	C \flat
Key of D	D	E-	F#-	G	A	B-	C# \emptyset	D-	E \emptyset	F	G-	A	B \flat	C
Key of E \flat	E \flat	F-	G-	A \flat	B \flat	C-	D \emptyset	E \flat -	F \emptyset	G \flat	A \flat -	B \flat	C \flat	D \flat
Key of E	E	F#-	G#-	A	B	C#-	D# \emptyset	E-	F# \emptyset	G	A-	B	C	D
Key of F	F	G-	A-	B \flat	C	D-	E \emptyset	F-	G \emptyset	A \flat	B \flat -	C	D \flat	E \flat
Key of G \flat	G \flat	A \flat -	B \flat -	C \flat	D \flat	E \flat -	F \emptyset	G \flat -	A $\flat\emptyset$	B $\flat\flat$	C \flat -	D \flat	E $\flat\flat$	F \flat
Key of G	G	A-	B-	C	D	E-	F# \emptyset	G-	A \emptyset	B \flat	C-	D	E \flat	F
Key of A \flat	A \flat	B \flat -	C-	D \flat	E \flat	F-	G \emptyset	A \flat -	B $\flat\emptyset$	C \flat	D \flat -	E \flat	F \flat	G \flat
Key of A	A	B-	C#-	D	E	F#-	G# \emptyset	A-	B \emptyset	C	D-	E	F	G
Key of B \flat	B \flat	C-	D-	E \flat	F	G-	A \emptyset	B \flat -	C \emptyset	D \flat	E \flat -	F	G \flat	A \flat
Key of B	B	C#-	D#-	E	F#	G#-	A# \emptyset	B-	C# \emptyset	D	E-	F#	G	A

* "m" or "-" means "minor". In a major key, chord numbers 2, 3, and 6 are minor. "M" means "major". In a major key, chord numbers 1, 4, and 5 are major. "o" means diminished. In a major key, only chord number 7 is diminished. For more help with these chord types, see the triads section.

** 7th chords are the same as triads, but they have a fourth note on them. For example, a "G" chord would use notes G, B, and D. A "G7" chord would have G, B, D, and F. The " Δ " symbol means "major 7" and the symbol " \emptyset " means half diminished. For more help with 7th chords, see the 7th chords section.