INTERVALS *(page 1/3)*

An **interval** is the distance *between* any two pitches or notes (the "ambitus" - the space *between* 2 notes).

Quantity is how many positions on the staff (letter names) the interval spans.
For example: E to A = 4th
C to B = 7th
G to A = 2nd

Quality can be categorized as:

"flavors"
- Perfect (P)
- Major (M)
- Minor (m)
- Diminished (o)
- Augmented (+)

Qualities change by increasing or decreasing the ambitus.

There are 2 types based on the number of possible qualities:

Type 1

o ← ♭ P ♯ → +

Type 1 intervals are: U (Unisons), 4ths, 5ths, 8ths

Type 2

o ← *(double flat)* ♭♭ m ♯ → / ♭ ← M *(double sharp)* 𝄪 → +

Type 2 intervals are: 2nds, 3rds, 6ths, 7ths

It is also helpful to know the intervals contained within the Major and Minor scales as a good reference and a way to double check yourself.

Major

U	M2nd	M3rd	P4th	P5th	M6th	M7th	P8th
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1

♮ Minor

U	M2nd	m3rd	P4th	P5th	m6th	m7th	P8th
1	2	♭3	4	5	♭6	♭7	1

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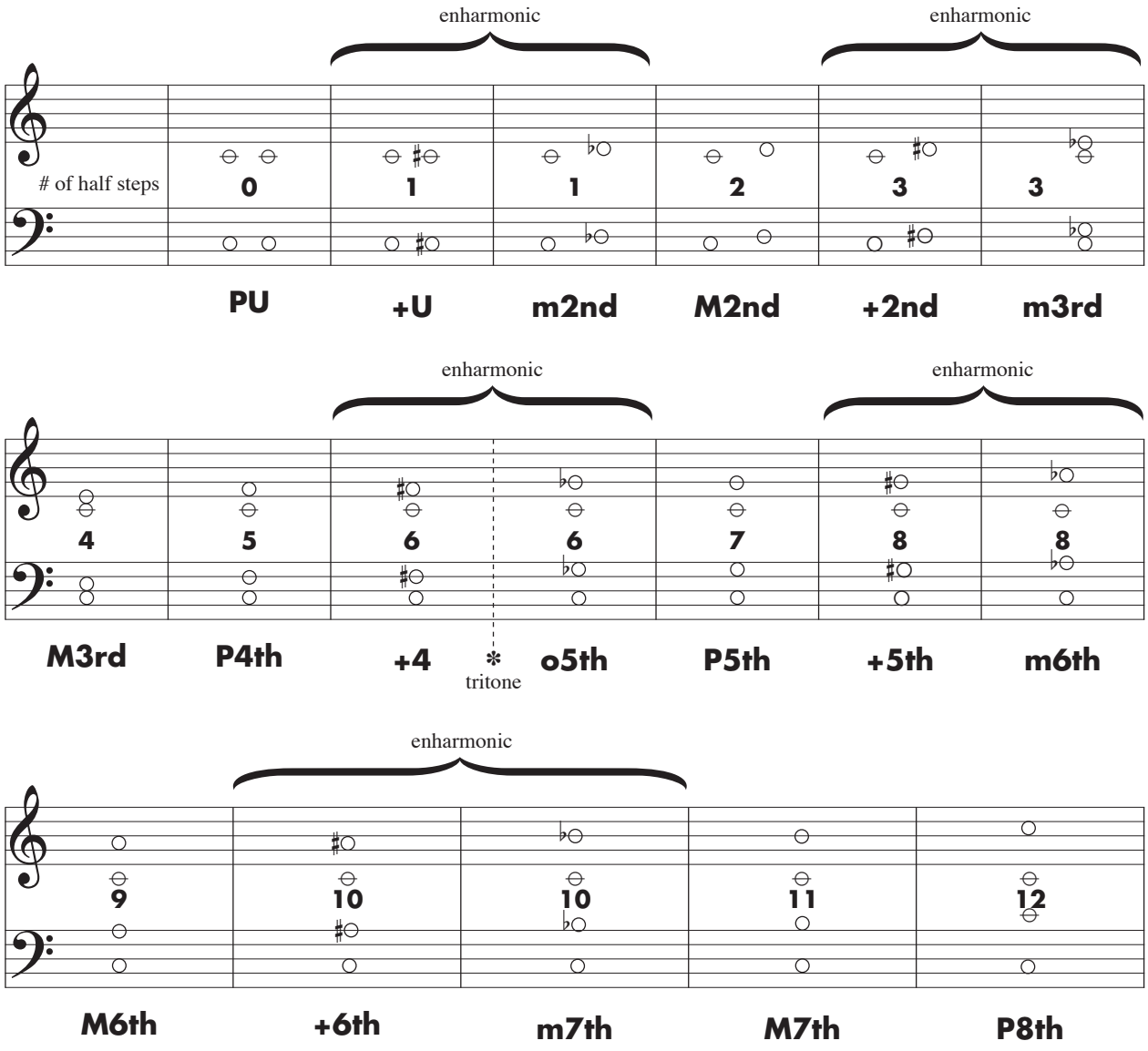
INTERVALS (Continued) *(page 2/3)*

SIMPLE INTERVALS

Simple intervals are intervals that span less than one octave.

Because of the flexibility of the system, many intervals can be spelled with different names. Intervals with the same sound but different spellings are called **enharmonic intervals**. The quantity is only 2.

Note: Intervals have ONLY ONE name.
C to D# is a +2nd, not a m3rd.



***TRITONE**

The **tritone** (tri- or three and tone) is a musical interval that spans three whole tones. It also is intervallically exactly half of an octave. The tritone can only be written as an augmented fourth, or its enharmonic equivalent, a diminished fifth. It is often used as the main interval of dissonance in western harmony and is important in the study of musical harmony.

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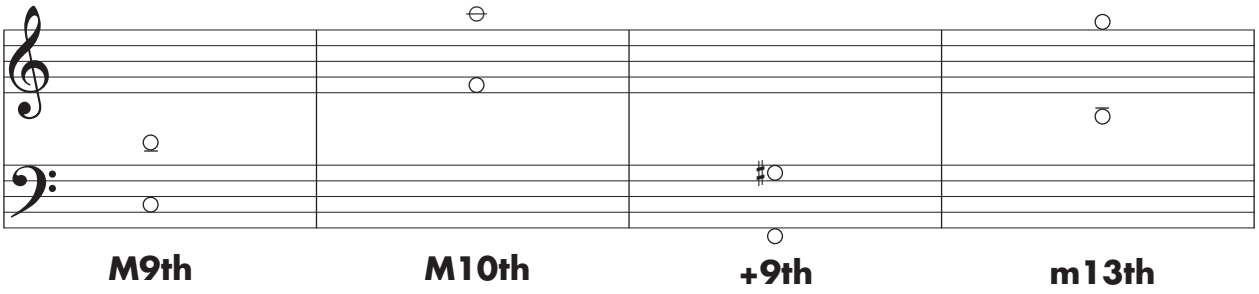
INTERVALS (Continued) *(page 3/3)*

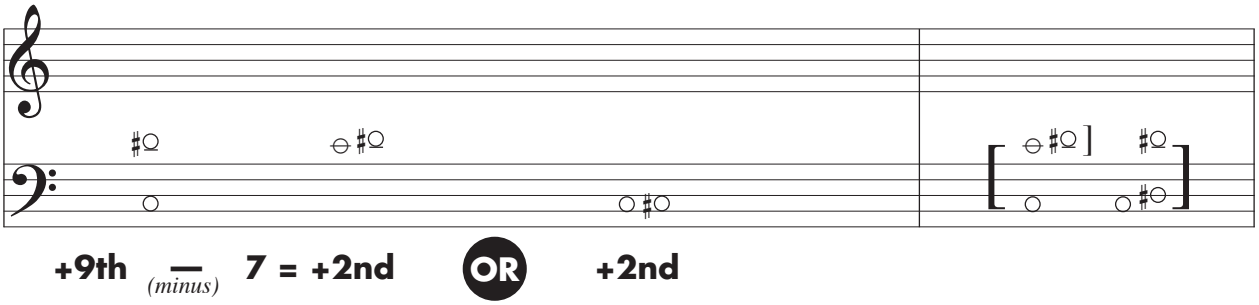
COMPOUND INTERVALS

Compound intervals are intervals that span more than one octave. They follow the same rules as their simple counterparts.



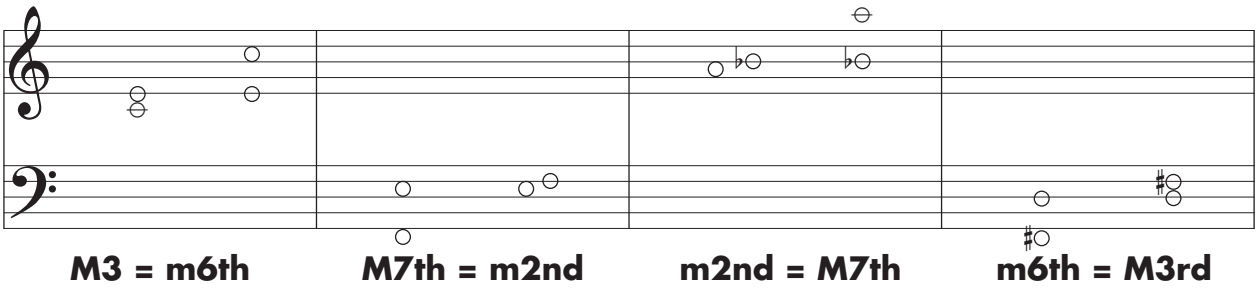
Trick: Subtract 7 from the interval to get its simple counterpart.

For example:



INVERSION

Inversion is a displacement of either note of an interval by an octave. Although the same pitches are used, a new interval is the result.



Trick: Subtract the interval from 9, reverse its quality.

For example:

m3rd — 9 = M6th (minus), reverse quality ↑ | M7th — 9 = m2nd (minus), reverse quality ↑

Inversion

M	*becomes*	**m**
m	*becomes*	**M**
+	*becomes*	**o**
o	*becomes*	**+**
P	*remains*	**P**

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