

# Harmonization Explained: Part One

The basics of harmonization can appear daunting to say the least - but I am going to try and explain some of the important factors to help you understand it.

Okay so when i'm talking about harmonization - i'm referring to layering notes of a scale to form chords (triads, sevenths etc) and intervals (thirds, fifths, sevenths etc)

The basic C scale is used to explain this theory - because unlike every other major/minor key (excluding its relative A minor) it has no sharps or flats. the notes of C major are:

**C, D, E, F, G, A, B.**

There are only seven notes in the most commonly used scales. There are scales that venture away from this traditional format - but we will explore them later on. I want you to get use to applying a roman numeral to each degree of the scale. Using roman numerals helps us understand that every major and minor scale works on the same formula. The note names change, but the idea is the same:

**I    II   III   IV   V   VI   VII**  
**C    D    E    F    G    A    B**

So remember, you can apply these formulas, to any major or NATURAL minor scale.

- **Triads** = 1, 3 and 5 from the selected degree of the scale to make the chord. triad = 3 note chords.

*For example a chord made from the note C (the I degree of the scale) would give you a C Major Chord, with the notes C, E, and G (or I, III, and V) but a chord made from D (the II degree of the scale) would give you a D minor Chord, with the notes D, F, and A (the II, IV, and VI) and so on.*

- **Seventh Chords** = 1, 3, 5, and 7 from the selected degree of the scale to make the chord. sevenths are 4 note chords.

*C Major Seventh would have the notes C, E, G, and B (I, III, V, VII) so you are simply adding one additional note, moving in the same fashion as the triad - choosing your notes from every second degree.*

There are many types of chord combinations, they are all simply taken from particular degrees of a scale. A further study of these chord formulas and scales and harmonization will come later.