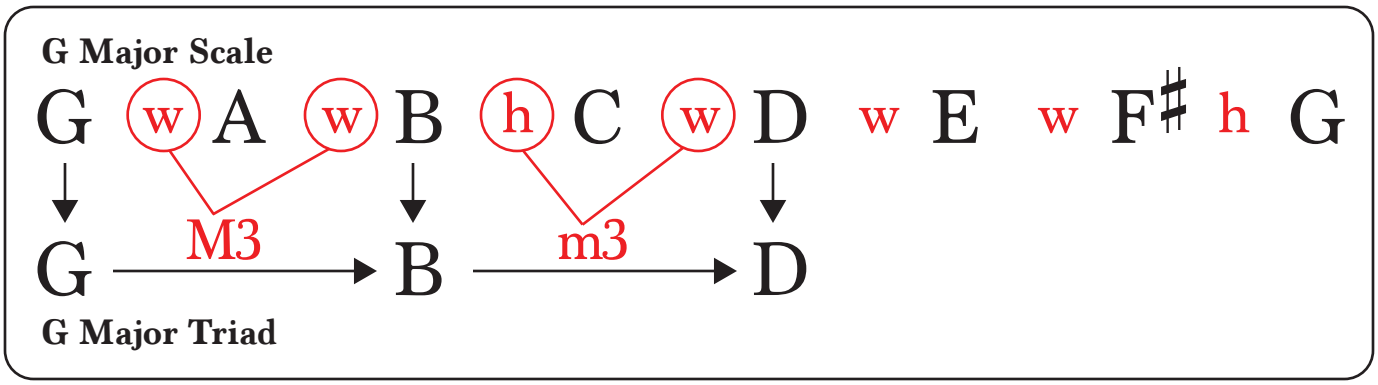
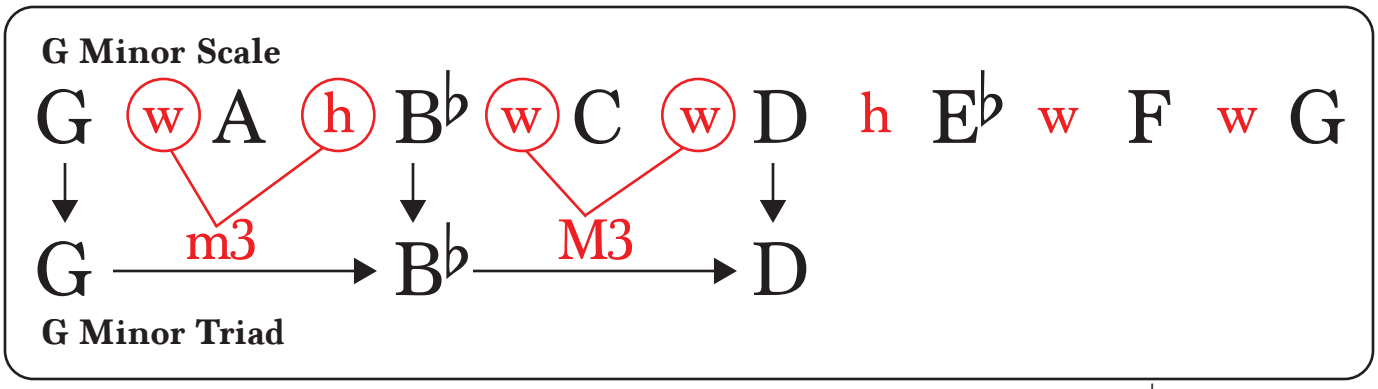
LESSON #6

REVIEW

In lesson 5, we talked about one way to make Major Triads: first make a Major Scale, then take the 1st, 3rd, and 5th notes of the scale. Boom! That's the root, third and fifth of a Major Triad. To make a Minor Triad, you can follow a similar path: Make a minor scale and take the first, third, and fifth note. You now have the root, third, and fifth of a minor triad! The homework exercises for this lesson will help drive these concepts home, but for now lets review and discuss why this is the case.

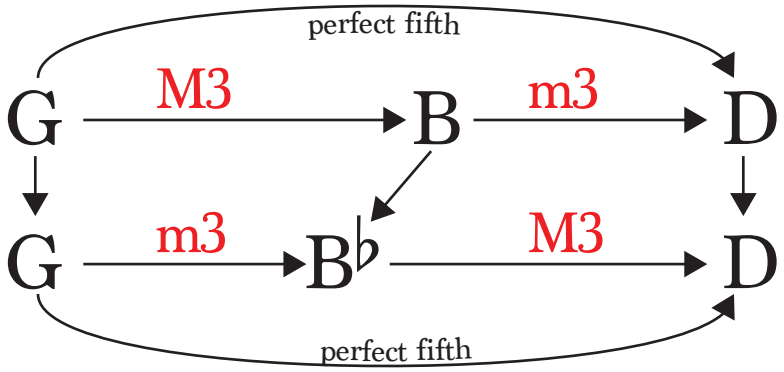
Lets start by creating a Major Triad and a Minor Triad using the "make a scale" method.





As you can see above, a G Major triad is G B D, and a G Minor Triad is G B♭ D.

Both triads have two notes in common, G and D, the root and fifth. The difference between a Major Triad and a Minor Triad is the third. Here you can see that both triads are based on a G root note, so they must have G in common. Both triads contain one M3 and one m3, but the order is reversed. That means the distance from root to fifth will always be the same for Major Triads and Minor Triads: a perfect fifth. It's this flipped M3/m3 relationship that changes the third of the chord.



LESSON #6

REVIEW

Lets look at the fingerboard. On the left, we have an E Major Scale and an E Major Triad. On the right we have an E Minor Scale and an E Minor Triad. From this perspective its a little easier to measure the M3's and m3's involved in the process.

E Major Triad

E G♯ B

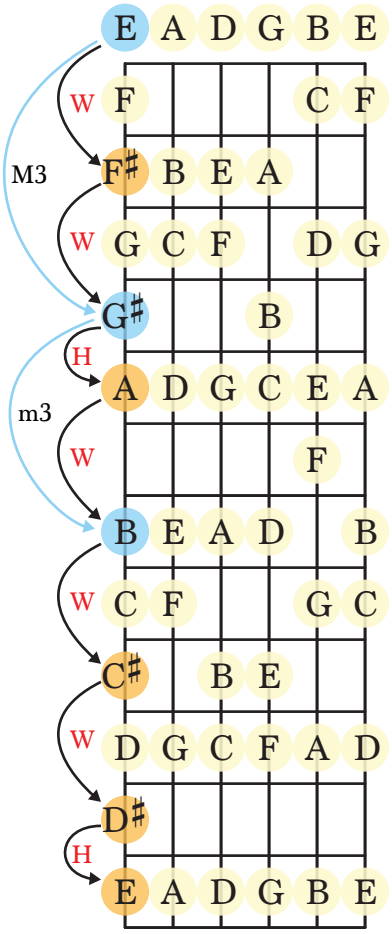
The major scale formula is in red next to the fingerboard.

wwhwwwh

In blue, notice the root, third, and fifth of the Major Triad.

You can see the **M3** from the root to the third and the **m3** from the third to the fifth.

E Major Scale



E Minor Triad

E G B

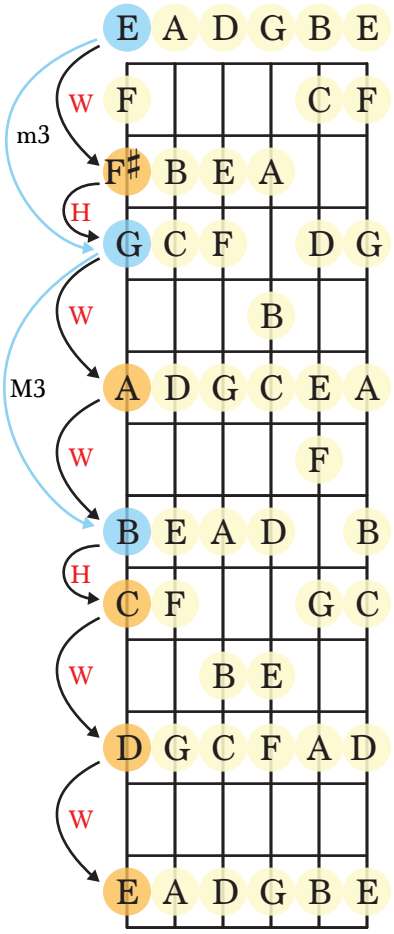
The minor scale formula is in red next to the fingerboard.

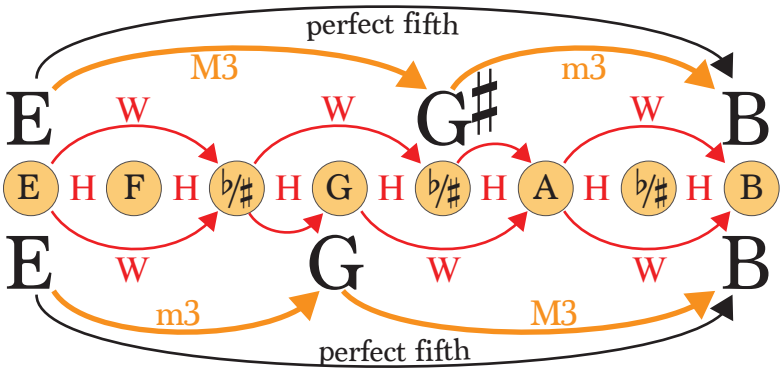
whwwhww

In blue, notice the root, third, and fifth of the Minor Triad.

You can see the **m3** from the root to the third and the **M3** from the third to the fifth.

E Minor Scale





This is a condensed version of the information above. The orange dots represent all the notes on the E string from open to the 7th fret. The next page will help you see how Major and Minor Triads actually work on the guitar.

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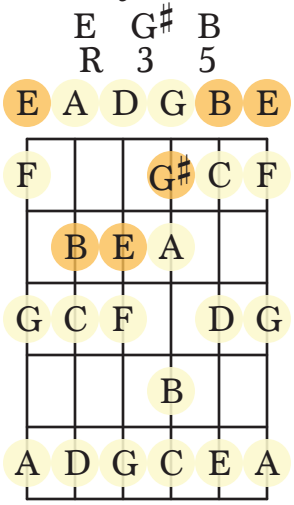
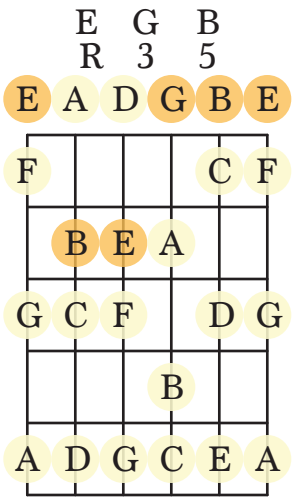
Music theory is a weird thing, and the guitar makes it weirder. As we've already discussed in the Major Triads lesson, once you know the root, third, and fifth of a triad, you don't have to play them in order. Along those lines, something cool happens when we look at the difference between major and minor triads on guitar. This cool pattern emerges. For each chord, the root and fifth stay put and the third of the chord moves back a half step toward the headstock. This is why some major and minor chords look so similar on guitar. Check out the homework for more exercises to help get these concepts into your head.

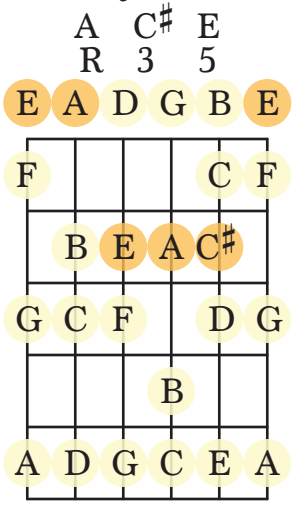
E Major Triad



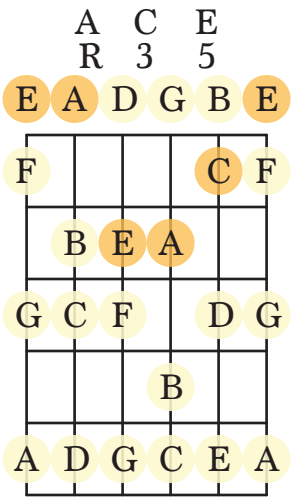
E Minor Triad



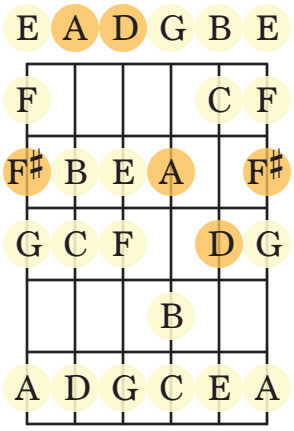
A Major Triad



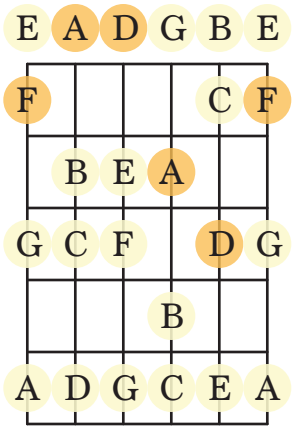
A Minor Triad



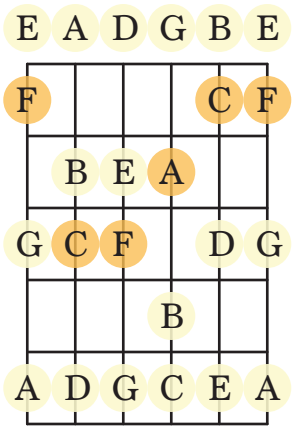
D Major Triad



D Minor Triad



F Major Triad



F Minor Triad