



# Triad Shapes for Guitar

With so much focus on 7th chords in Jazz Guitar pedagogy, it can be easy to overlook the four basic triad qualities: Major, Minor, Augmented, and Diminished. Let's review these.

Major - Root, Major 3rd, Perfect 5th

Augmented - Root, Major 3rd, Augmented 5th

Minor - Root, minor 3rd, Perfect 5th

Diminished - Root, minor 3rd, diminished 5th

These examples are all in Root Position. This means the root is in the lowest note. Also notice how the third is in the middle, and fifth on the top. First, the root on the D string.

Major Augmented Major Minor Minor Diminished

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   | 2 |   | 3 |   |
| 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |

Now the root note on the G string.

Major Augmented Major Minor Minor Diminished

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 |   | 5 |   | 6 |   |
| 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

And the root note on the A string

Major Augmented Major Minor Minor Diminished

|    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 7  |    | 8  |    | 9  |    |
| 10 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9  |
| 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |

Roots on the E string are the same as the A string...

# Major Triads in Inversions

These examples will introduce 1st Inversion and 2nd Inversion shapes for the Major Triad. 1st Inversion puts the 3rd in the lowest note. 2nd Inversion uses the 5th in the lowest note.

| Bb Major Root   | 1st Inv      | 2nd Inv         | Root            | 2nd Inv         | 1st Inv      |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                 |              |                 |                 |                 |              |
| TAB: 10, 10, 10 | TAB: 6, 6, 7 | TAB: 10, 11, 10 | TAB: 13, 15, 15 | TAB: 10, 11, 10 | TAB: 6, 6, 7 |

| Bb Major 2nd Inv | Root         | 1st Inv         | 2nd Inv         | 1st Inv         | Root         |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                  |              |                 |                 |                 |              |
| TAB: 13, 13, 13  | TAB: 6, 7, 8 | TAB: 11, 10, 12 | TAB: 15, 15, 15 | TAB: 11, 10, 12 | TAB: 6, 7, 8 |

| Bb Major 1st Inv | 2nd Inv      | Root            | 1st Inv         | Root            | 2nd Inv      |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                  |              |                 |                 |                 |              |
| TAB: 16, 3, 5    | TAB: 7, 8, 8 | TAB: 10, 12, 13 | TAB: 15, 15, 17 | TAB: 10, 12, 13 | TAB: 7, 8, 8 |

# Augmented Triads in Inversions

These examples will introduce 1st Inversion and 2nd Inversion shapes for the Augmented Triad. Note that the Augmented Triad has 3 different possible roots since it is completely symmetrical.

| Bb/D/F# Aug  | Bb/D/F# Aug  | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug  |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|              |              |                 |                 |                 |              |
| TAB: 2, 3, 3 | TAB: 6, 7, 7 | TAB: 10, 11, 11 | TAB: 14, 15, 15 | TAB: 10, 11, 11 | TAB: 6, 7, 7 |

| Bb/D/F# Aug  | Bb/D/F# Aug  | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug  |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|              |              |                 |                 |                 |              |
| TAB: 3, 3, 4 | TAB: 7, 7, 8 | TAB: 11, 11, 12 | TAB: 15, 15, 16 | TAB: 11, 11, 12 | TAB: 7, 7, 8 |

| Bb/D/F# Aug  | Bb/D/F# Aug  | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug     | Bb/D/F# Aug  |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|              |              |                 |                 |                 |              |
| TAB: 3, 4, 5 | TAB: 7, 8, 9 | TAB: 11, 12, 13 | TAB: 15, 16, 17 | TAB: 11, 12, 13 | TAB: 7, 8, 9 |

# Minor Triads in Inversions

These examples will introduce 1st Inversion and 2nd Inversion shapes for the Minor Triad.

| Bb minor Root | 1st Inv      | 2nd Inv        | Root            | 2nd Inv        | 1st Inv      |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
|               |              |                |                 |                |              |
| TAB: 1, 2, 3  | TAB: 6, 6, 6 | TAB: 9, 11, 10 | TAB: 13, 14, 15 | TAB: 9, 11, 10 | TAB: 6, 6, 6 |

| Bb minor 2nd Inv | Root         | 1st Inv         | 2nd Inv         | 1st Inv         | Root         |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                  |              |                 |                 |                 |              |
| TAB: 2, 3, 3     | TAB: 6, 6, 8 | TAB: 11, 10, 11 | TAB: 14, 15, 15 | TAB: 11, 10, 11 | TAB: 6, 6, 8 |

| Bb minor 1st Inv | 2nd Inv      | Root            | 1st Inv         | Root            | 2nd Inv      |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                  |              |                 |                 |                 |              |
| TAB: 3, 3, 4     | TAB: 6, 8, 8 | TAB: 10, 11, 13 | TAB: 15, 15, 16 | TAB: 10, 11, 13 | TAB: 6, 8, 8 |

# Diminished Triads in Inversions

These examples will introduce 1st Inversion and 2nd Inversion shapes for the Diminished Triad.

| Bb dim Root        | 1st Inv     | 2nd Inv      | Root           | 2nd Inv      | 1st Inv     |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
|                    |             |              |                |              |             |
| TAB<br>0<br>2<br>3 | 6<br>5<br>6 | 9<br>11<br>9 | 12<br>14<br>15 | 9<br>11<br>9 | 6<br>5<br>6 |

| Bb dim 2nd Inv     | Root        | 1st Inv       | 2nd Inv        | 1st Inv       | Root        |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
|                    |             |               |                |               |             |
| TAB<br>2<br>3<br>2 | 5<br>6<br>8 | 11<br>9<br>11 | 14<br>15<br>14 | 11<br>9<br>11 | 5<br>6<br>8 |

| Bb dim 1st Inv     | 2nd Inv     | Root          | 1st Inv        | Root          | 2nd Inv     |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
|                    |             |               |                |               |             |
| TAB<br>3<br>2<br>4 | 6<br>8<br>7 | 9<br>11<br>13 | 15<br>14<br>16 | 9<br>11<br>13 | 6<br>8<br>7 |

# Chord Scales

Harmonic instruments should practice chords in scales. In a major key, each scale degree has a Major, Minor, or Diminished chord it naturally makes as seen below in the key of Bb Major.

1 - Bb Major

2 - C minor

3 - D minor

4 - Eb Major

5 - F Major

6 - G minor


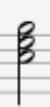

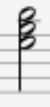
7 - A diminished

**- 1, 4, and 5 are major.**

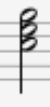
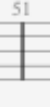
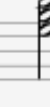
**- 2, 3, and 6 is minor.**

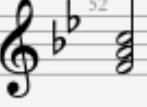
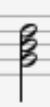

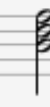
**- 7 is diminished**

The following examples use this idea. Move each example to different keys as you master them.

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Bb Major   | C minor   | D minor   | Eb Major  |
|  |  |  |  |
| TAB<br>1<br>3<br>3   | 3<br>4<br>5   | 5<br>6<br>7   | 6<br>8<br>8   |

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| F Major  | G minor   | A diminished  | Bb Major  |
|  |  |  |  |
| TAB<br>8<br>10<br>10   | 10<br>11<br>12  | 11<br>13<br>14  | 13<br>15<br>15  |

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Bb Major  | C minor  | D minor  | Eb Major   |
|  |  |  |  |
| TAB<br>6<br>7<br>8  | 8<br>8<br>10   | 10<br>10<br>12   | 11<br>12<br>13   |

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| F Major  | G minor   | A diminished  | Bb Major  |
|  |  |  |  |
| TAB<br>1<br>2<br>3   | 3<br>3<br>5   | 4<br>5<br>7   | 6<br>7<br>8   |



|          |         |         |          |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Bb Major | C minor | D minor | Eb Major |
|          |         |         |          |
| TAB      |         |         |          |
| 10       | 0       | 2       | 3        |
| 12       | 1       | 3       | 5        |
| 13       | 3       | 5       | 6        |

|         |         |              |          |
|---------|---------|--------------|----------|
| F Major | G minor | A diminished | Bb Major |
|         |         |              |          |
| TAB     |         |              |          |
| 5       | 7       | 8            | 10       |
| 7       | 8       | 10           | 12       |
| 8       | 10      | 12           | 13       |

|          |         |         |          |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Bb Major | C minor | D minor | Eb Major |
|          |         |         |          |
| TAB      |         |         |          |
| 1        | 3       | 1       | 3        |
| 3        | 4       | 3       | 4        |
| 3        | 5       | 2       | 3        |

|         |         |              |          |
|---------|---------|--------------|----------|
| F Major | G minor | A diminished | Bb Major |
|         |         |              |          |
| TAB     |         |              |          |
| 1       | 3       | 5            | 6        |
| 1       | 3       | 4            | 6        |
| 2       | 3       | 5            | 7        |

|     |             |             |             |             |
|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|     | Bb Major    | C minor     | D minor     | Eb Major    |
|     |             |             |             |             |
| TAB | 6<br>6<br>7 | 8<br>8<br>8 | 5<br>6<br>7 | 6<br>8<br>8 |

|     |             |             |              |                |
|-----|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
|     | F Major     | G minor     | A diminished | Bb Major       |
|     |             |             |              |                |
| TAB | 5<br>6<br>5 | 6<br>8<br>7 | 8<br>10<br>8 | 10<br>11<br>10 |

|     |                |                |                |                |
|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|     | Bb Major       | C minor        | D minor        | Eb Major       |
|     |                |                |                |                |
| TAB | 10<br>11<br>10 | 11<br>13<br>12 | 10<br>10<br>10 | 11<br>11<br>12 |

|     |               |                |                |                |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|     | F Major       | G minor        | A diminished   | Bb major       |
|     |               |                |                |                |
| TAB | 8<br>10<br>10 | 10<br>11<br>12 | 11<br>13<br>14 | 13<br>15<br>15 |

|                 |                |                |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Bb Major</b> | <b>C minor</b> | <b>D minor</b> | <b>Eb Major</b> |
|                 |                |                |                 |
| TAB 3<br>3<br>3 | 4<br>5<br>5    | 3<br>2<br>3    | 4<br>3<br>5     |

|                 |                |                     |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>F Major</b>  | <b>G minor</b> | <b>A diminished</b> | <b>Bb Major</b> |
|                 |                |                     |                 |
| TAB 1<br>2<br>3 | 3<br>3<br>5    | 4<br>5<br>7         | 6<br>7<br>8     |

|                 |                |                |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Bb Major</b> | <b>C minor</b> | <b>D minor</b> | <b>Eb Major</b> |
|                 |                |                |                 |
| TAB 6<br>7<br>8 | 8<br>8<br>10   | 6<br>7<br>7    | 8<br>8<br>8     |

|                 |                |                     |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>F Major</b>  | <b>G minor</b> | <b>A diminished</b> | <b>Bb Major</b> |
|                 |                |                     |                 |
| TAB 6<br>5<br>7 | 8<br>7<br>8    | 10<br>8<br>10       | 11<br>10<br>12  |

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
|   | Bb Major   | C minor   | D minor  | Eb Major  |
|   |  |  |  |  |
| T | 11   | 13  | 10   | 11  |
| A | 10   | 12  | 10   | 12  |
| B | 12   | 13  | 12   | 13  |

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
|   | F Major  | G minor   | A diminished   | Bb Major  |
|   |  |  |  |  |
| T | 10   | 11  | 13   | 15  |
| A | 10   | 12  | 14   | 15  |
| B | 10   | 12  | 13   | 15  |

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
|   | Bb Major   | C minor   | D minor  | Eb Major  |
|   |  |  |  |  |
| T | 3  | 5   | 2  | 3   |
| A | 3  | 5   | 3  | 5   |
| B | 5  | 6   | 5  | 6   |

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
|   | F Major  | G minor   | A diminished   | Bb Major  |
|   |  |  |  |  |
| T | 2  | 3   | 5  | 7   |
| A | 3  | 5   | 7  | 8   |
| B | 3  | 5   | 6  | 8   |

|             |              |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Bb Major    | C minor      | D minor     | Eb Major     |
| 86          |              | 87          |              |
|             |              |             |              |
| T<br>A<br>B | 8<br>8<br>10 | 7<br>7<br>8 | 8<br>8<br>10 |

|             |              |               |                |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| F Major     | G minor      | A diminished  | Bb Major       |
| 88          |              | 89            |                |
|             |              |               |                |
| T<br>A<br>B | 7<br>8<br>10 | 8<br>10<br>12 | 10<br>12<br>13 |

|             |                |                |                |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bb Major    | C minor        | D minor        | Eb Major       |
| 90          |                | 91             |                |
|             |                |                |                |
| T<br>A<br>B | 12<br>13<br>15 | 10<br>12<br>12 | 12<br>13<br>13 |

|             |                |                |                |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| F Major     | G minor        | A diminished   | Bb Major       |
| 92          |                | 93             |                |
|             |                |                |                |
| T<br>A<br>B | 12<br>12<br>13 | 14<br>13<br>15 | 15<br>15<br>17 |