# Prerequisites

## A Capsule Look at Scales and Chords

**It will be helpful to brush up on the following:**

### Scale of Bb

Bb is the tonic (keynote), the first note. The eighth note of the scale becomes the first note an octave higher.

Example: Bb Major scale for approximately 2 ½ octaves



| | | | | | | | (8) | | | | | | | (8) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 etc. |
| tonic | | | | | | | tonic | | | | | | | tonic | | |

Scales continue in this manner for many octaves.

Sing a Bb scale using a neutral syllable (*da* or *la*). Sing as high as you can go. Also sing it backwards (high to low).

If you are not comfortable singing, make the effort. Get used to the sound of your own voice. Familiarize yourself with the sound of a major scale. Play it on the piano for accuracy of pitch.

Learning and recognizing the sound of a major scale will be the quickest way to figure out the sound of successive notes in a tune or in an etude since most music relates to a scale.
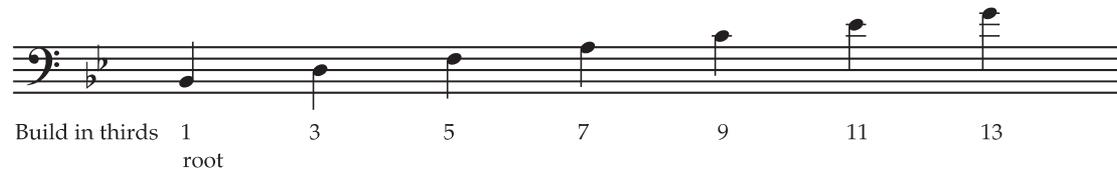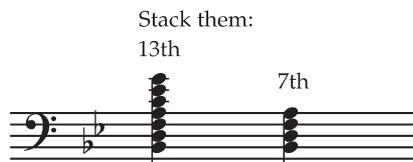
## Bb Chord

A chord is three or more notes of a scale, built by thirds. A third is an interval built from a scale by choosing a note, skipping the next note and choosing the following note. The interval of a third involves three notes: the lower note, the skipped note and the upper note.

Example:

A Bb chord (a chord built on Bb, the root): Once a chord has been built, its notes can be played anywhere, in any register. The following chords are in root position.



Stack them:



Chords start as triads (root, third and fifth) and then they are added to in thirds. The next note after the triad is the 7th, then the 9th, 11th, and finally 13th. A 15th would only be a repeat of the root note and therefore isn't used.

Chords are named by their roots, but their type is identified by the interval from the root to the top note of the stack. Some random chords are: Bb7, E9, and G13.

Unlike scales, the building of a chord takes place within two octaves. This is why there are 9th's, 11ths, and 13ths rather than restating those notes as the 2nd, 4th, and 6th notes of a scale.