

Music Theory

Generic and Specific Intervals

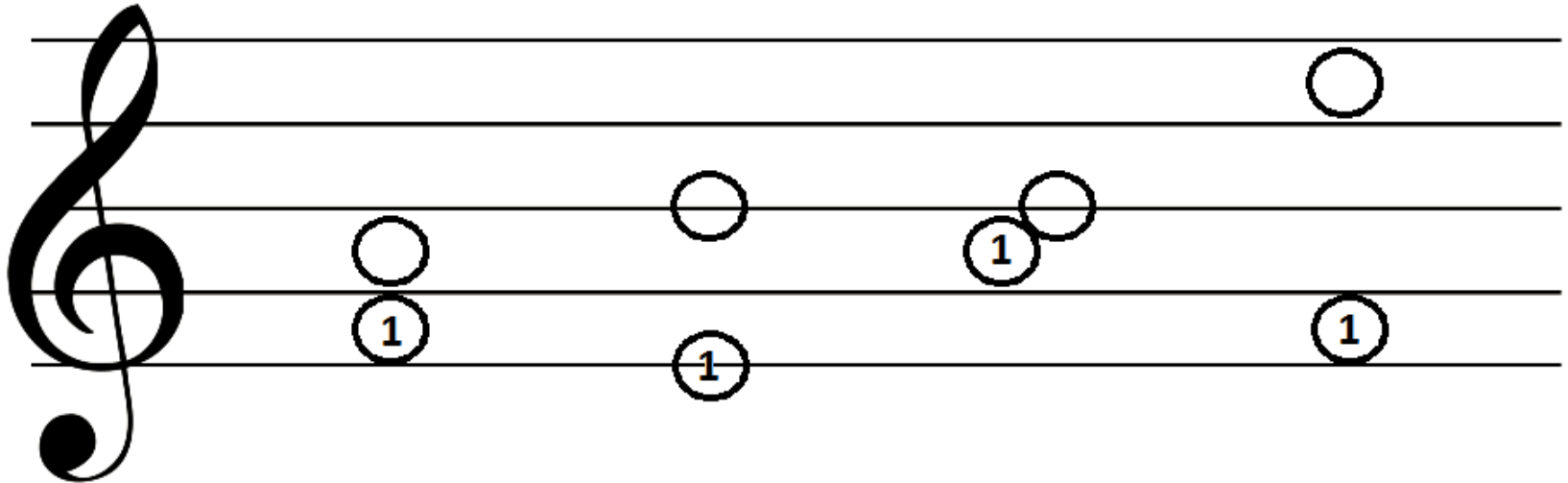
Definition

An Interval is the distance between two notes.

There are two different types of Intervals:

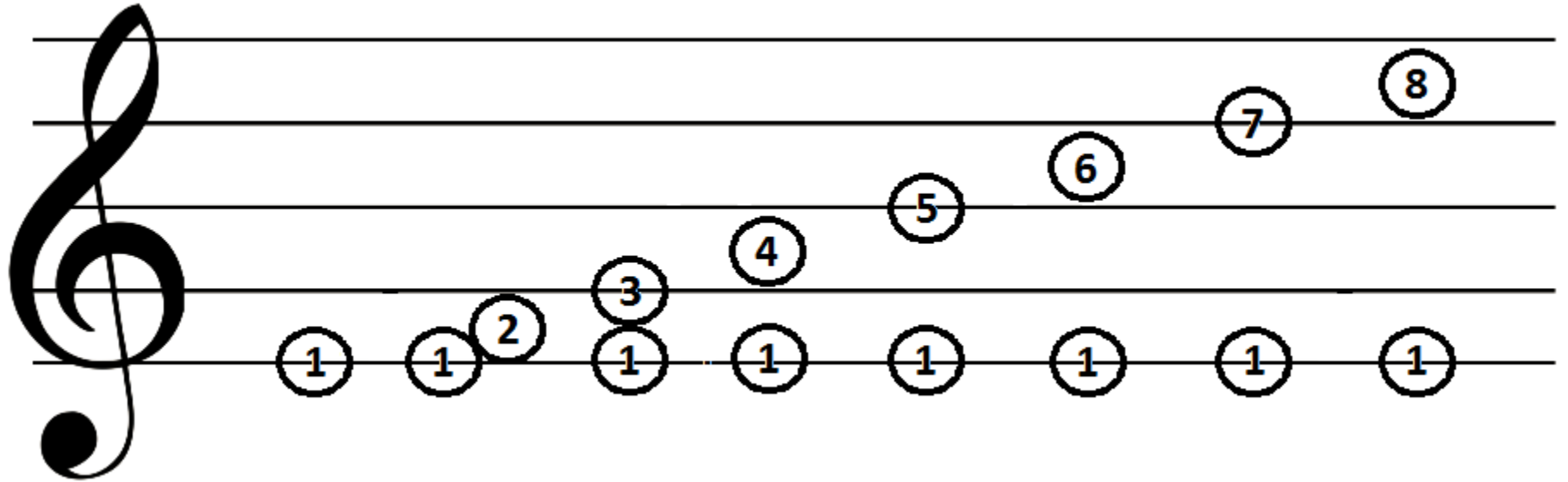
- Generic Intervals (just a distance number)
- Specific Intervals (a number and a harmonic designator)

Bottom Note = 1

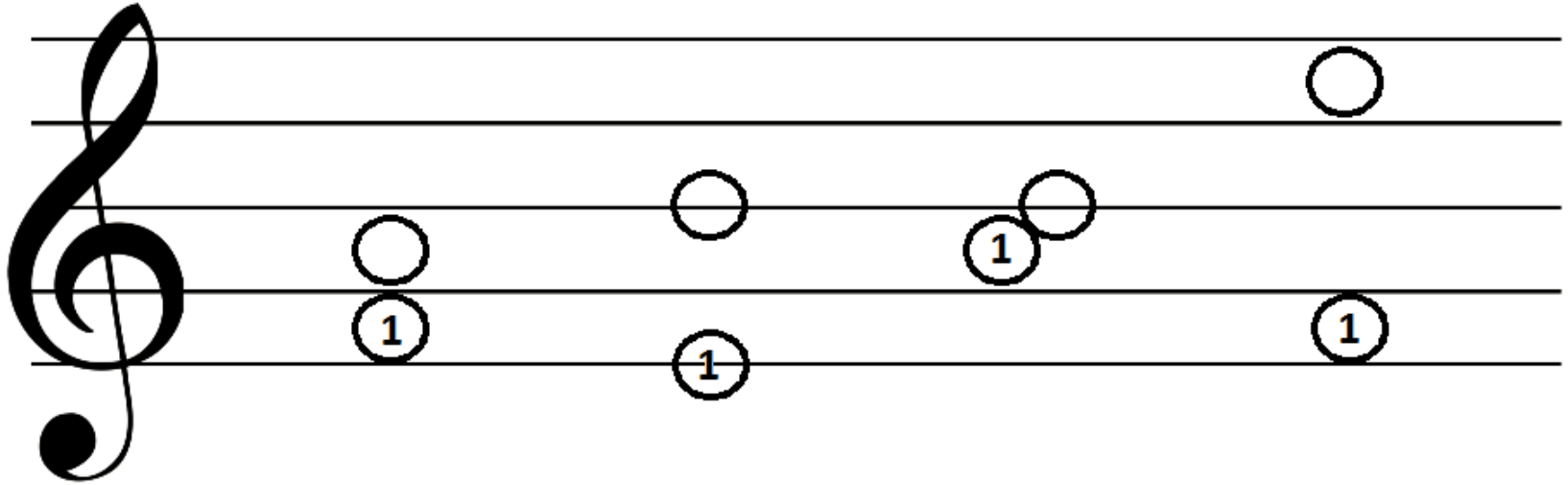


- Assume the bottom note of each interval pair is 1.
- Intervals are not dependent on key

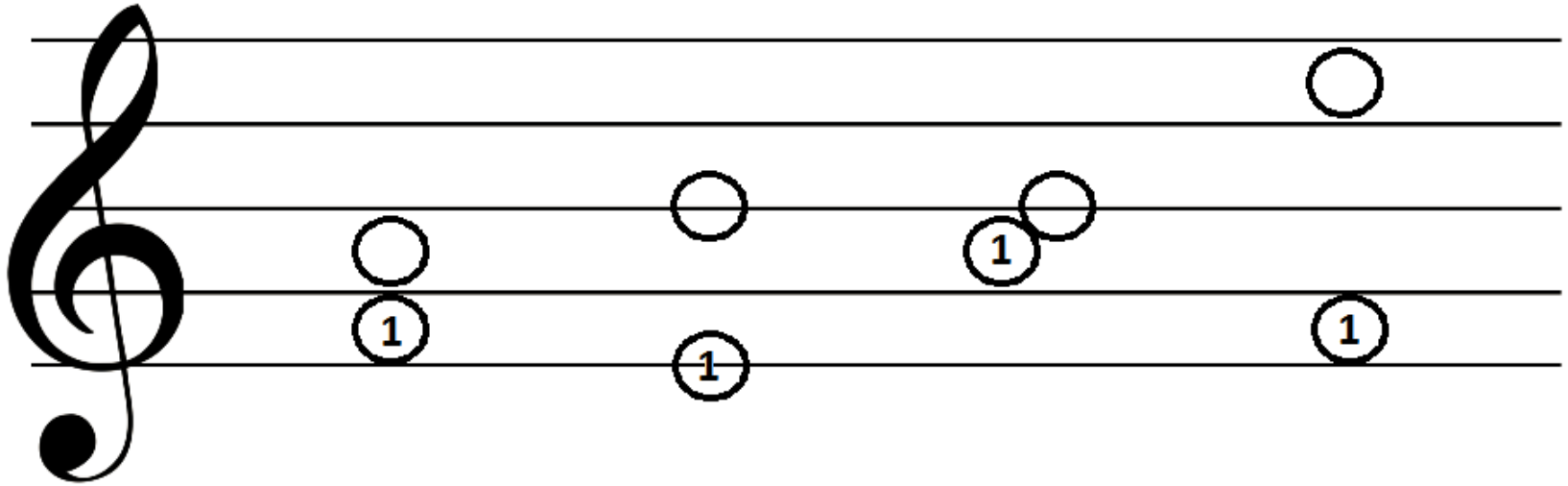
Each note gets a number



Practice:



Practice: (Answers)



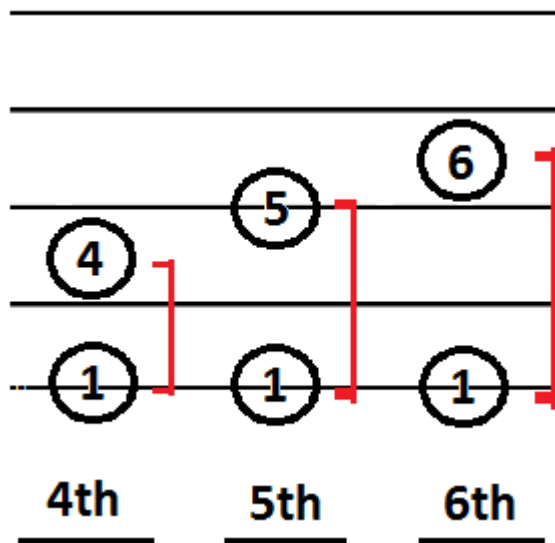
3rd

5th

2nd

7th

Generic Intervals



- The distance between the notes is the Generic Interval
- Remember, the bottom note can change.

Specific Intervals

Specific Intervals have two parts-

- Generic Interval
- Harmonic Designator

(This tells you what type of harmonies that these intervals have.)

Specific Intervals cont...

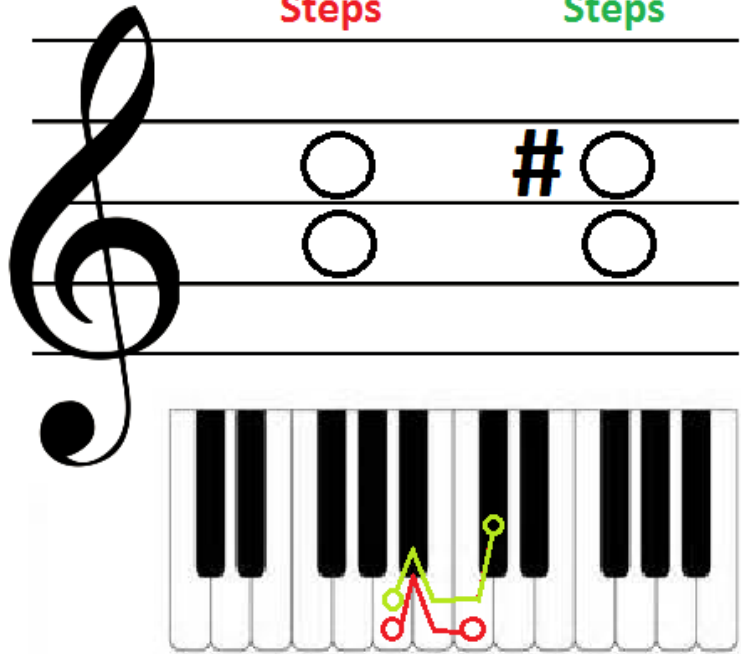
The biggest difference between Generic and Specific Intervals is that Specific Intervals count distance in HALF STEPS as well as note letters.

Here is an example....

Two thirds

3 Half
Steps

4 Half
Steps



- Both of these Intervals are 3rds.
- A to C has 3 half-steps
- A to C# has 4 half-steps
- We use a Harmonic Designator to tell the difference between the two.

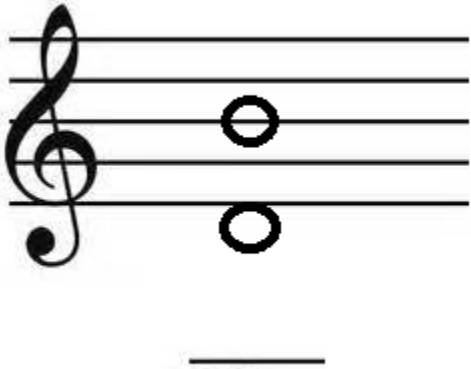
Harmonic Designators

Major (M)	- found in Major Scales
Minor (m)	- lower than Major Intervals
Perfect (P)	- found in All Scales
Augmented (+)	- higher than M/P intervals
Diminished (°)	- lower than m/P intervals
Tritone (T)	- found between P4 and P5

Specific Intervals

number of half steps												
+0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	+7	+8	+9	+10	+11	+12
P1 U	m2	M2	m3	M3	P4	4+ T 5°	P5	m6	M6	m7	M7	P8
Specific Interval												

Example: Specific Intervals

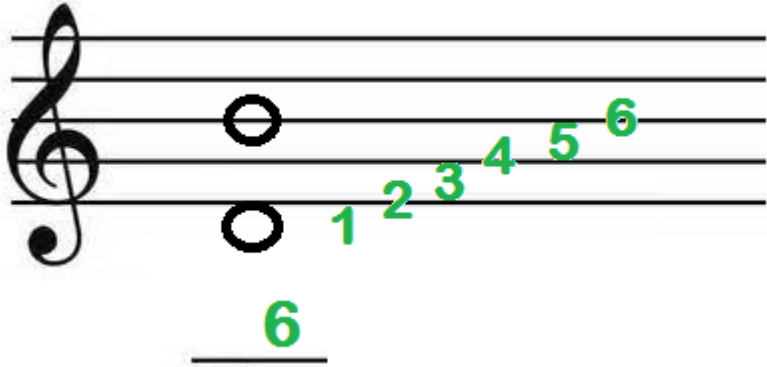


Question: What is this specific interval?

Steps:

1. Find the Generic Interval Number
2. Find out possible designators for that number
3. Identify the number of Half Steps
4. Combine them to get your answer.

Step 1



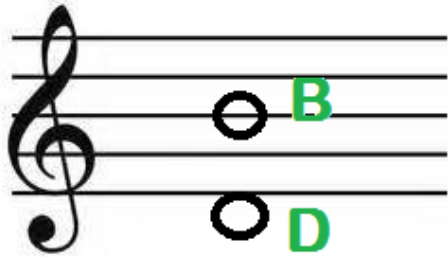
- Count up starting on your bottom note
- The number reached on the last note is your Generic Interval number.
- This is a Generic 6th

Step 2

f steps			
+7	+8	+9	+10
P5	m6	M6	m7
Interval			

- This image is from our half step chart from earlier.
- There are two intervals that have the number 6 in them.
- Choices: m6, M6
- The answer will either have +8 or +9 half steps

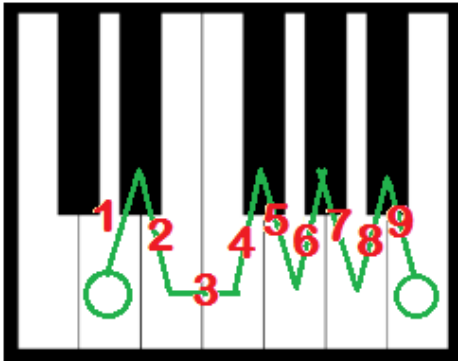
Step 3



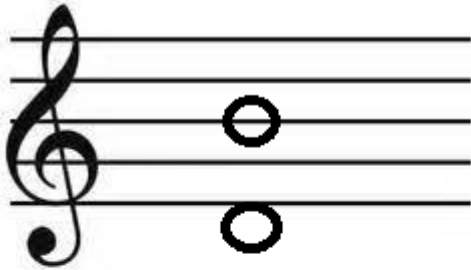
- This interval is from D to B
- Starting on D, count the moves you make until you reach a B

- The Distance from D to B is +9

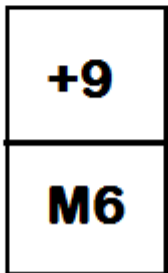
** Remember, you have to count the moves you make. Your first note is not a move.



Step 4



M6

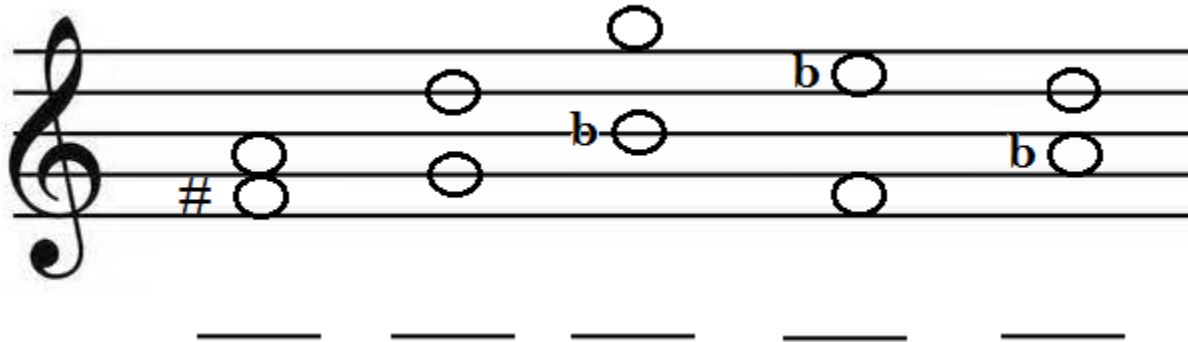


- Since the distance is +9 half steps, our answer should be a M6.

Helpful Hints:

- If your half steps and your generic intervals don't agree, you may have made a mistake!
- If you have a Generic 4th or 5th, watch out! You may be dealing with a Tritone.
- In Generic Intervals you count individual notes, in Specific intervals you count the moves between notes.

Practice Problems



Practice Problems (Ans.)

A musical staff in treble clef with a sharp sign on the first line. Five intervals are shown with notes and labels below them:

- m3**: A sharp on the first line and a note on the second line.
- P5**: A note on the second line and a note on the fourth line.
- M6**: A note on the second line and a note on the sixth line.
- m7**: A note on the second line and a flat on the fourth line.
- T(4+)**: A flat on the second line and a note on the fourth line.

Inverted Intervals

Every Interval can be inverted (flipped around)

When inverted, every interval has a pair.

Using Inverted Intervals, you no longer have to count large amounts of half steps.

Interval Inversion Pairs

When inverted:

- 1=8, 2=7, 3=6, 4=5, T=T*
- Major and Minor intervals *Switch* when inverted.
Perfect intervals remain Perfect

+0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
P1	m2	M2	m3	M3	P4	T
P8	M7	m7	M6	m6	P5	T
+12	+11	+10	+9	+8	+7	+6