

Finding Harmonies in a Major Key

Once you know the notes in a major key, you will likely want to find the harmonies as well. We can find chords in a major key using this formula:

I ii iii IV V vi vii° I

The uppercase roman numerals represent major chords.

The lowercase roman numerals represent minor chords.

The ° symbol represents a diminished chord.

Let's look at an example. Suppose we want to find all of the chords in the key of A Major.

There are just two steps to accomplish this.

- 1. After finding the pitches in a key using the Major Scale Formula, align the Major Key Chord Formula beneath those pitches:**

A B C# D E F# G# A

I ii iii IV V vi vii° I

- 2. Fill in the names of the chords based on the formula:**

A Bm C#m D E F#m G#° A

I ii iii IV V vi vii° I

That's it! Now you can find the harmonies in any key you like following the same steps! Try finding chords in new keys on your own to practice your knowledge!