

HARMONIC COLORING: *a method for indicating pitch class*

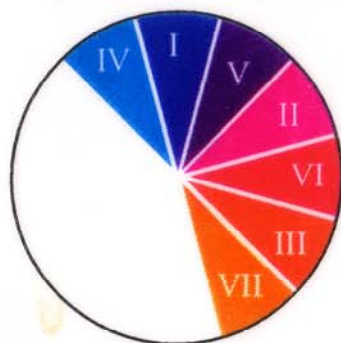
Color Assignment



Harmonic coloring assigns twelve colors from the artist's color wheel to the twelve pitches of the musician's circle of fifths.

In the chart above and the examples that follow, blue is assigned to the tonic pitch.

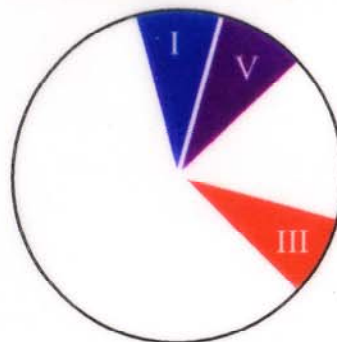
Major Scale



The notes of a major scale are contiguous on the circle of fifths—five notes are found directly clockwise from the tonic, and one directly counterclockwise.

In a minor scale, the balance would be reversed, with more notes lying counterclockwise from the tonic.

Major Triad



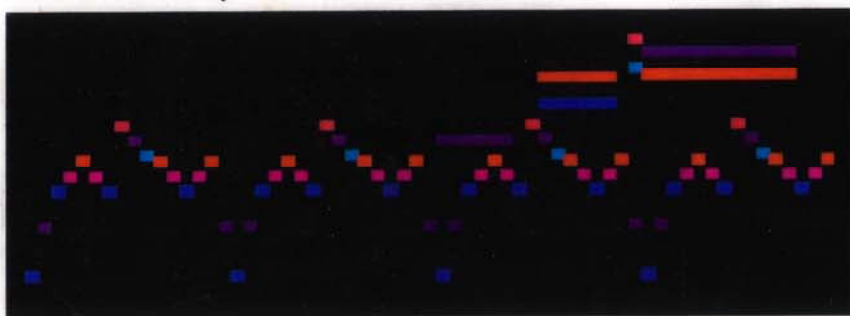
The root and the fifth are adjacent on the wheel; the third is more distant.

Minor Triad



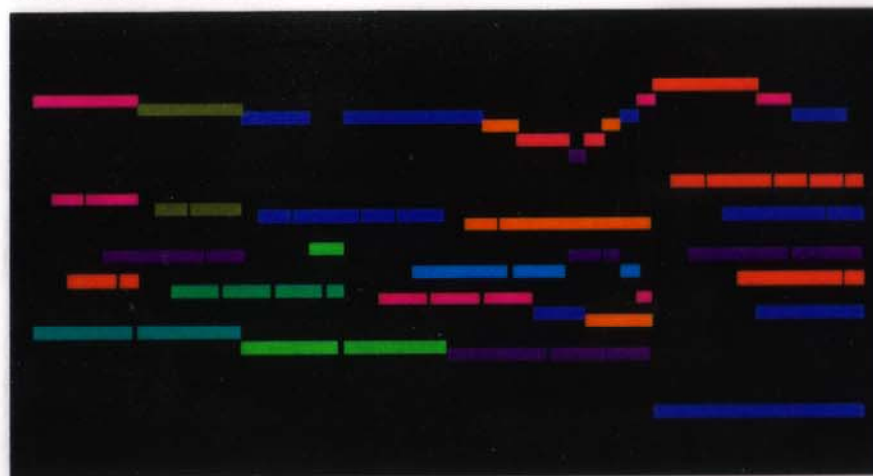
The third, whether major or minor, adds the note to the triad that is most distant harmonically from the others.

Static Harmony



Above are the first four bars of Chopin's Prelude, Opus 28, No. 3 in G major, rendered in Music Animation Machine notation using harmonic coloring. This excerpt remains entirely in a single tonal area, that of the tonic.

Harmonic Motion



Above are four bars (23–26) of Chopin's Nocturne, Opus 27, No. 2 in D-flat major. This excerpt modulates chromatically, ending with a V to I cadence.