

THEORY FOR STRINGS

I cannot stress this enough: The most important musical concept to understand are intervals and the root position major chord. It is important mentally, vocally, improvisationally, and technique of playing. All chords are built off of the major chord, and knowledge of intervals is key. With string instruments you have to learn the interval relationships on the fret board and intervallic distance between the strings. But first, some terminology:

Terms for communication:

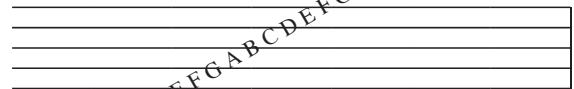
Note - frequency per second (Hertz) **Pitch**=frequency=note **Tonic** - the central note of a musical piece or phrase. **Key** - the scale that is established by the central tonality. **Key** - the musical note pattern of steps and half steps that define the musical persona **Diatonic** - including only the notes in the of key. **Chromatic** - all notes without regard for key structure. **Unison** - the same note. **Octave** - doubling or halving of the frequency. **Triad** - chord based on the interval of thirds. **Voicing** - how the notes of a chord are spaced. **Resolution** - the relaxing or resolving of the musical tensions or expectations. **Sharp or augment** - raise the note one halfstep. **Flat or diminish** -reduce the note by a half step

Musical alphabet moves upward like this.

The type of clef determines where it starts.

TREBLE CLEF

BASS CLEF



(In counting intervals, there is no “zero”. A unison is a “one”. The next letter name is “second”.)

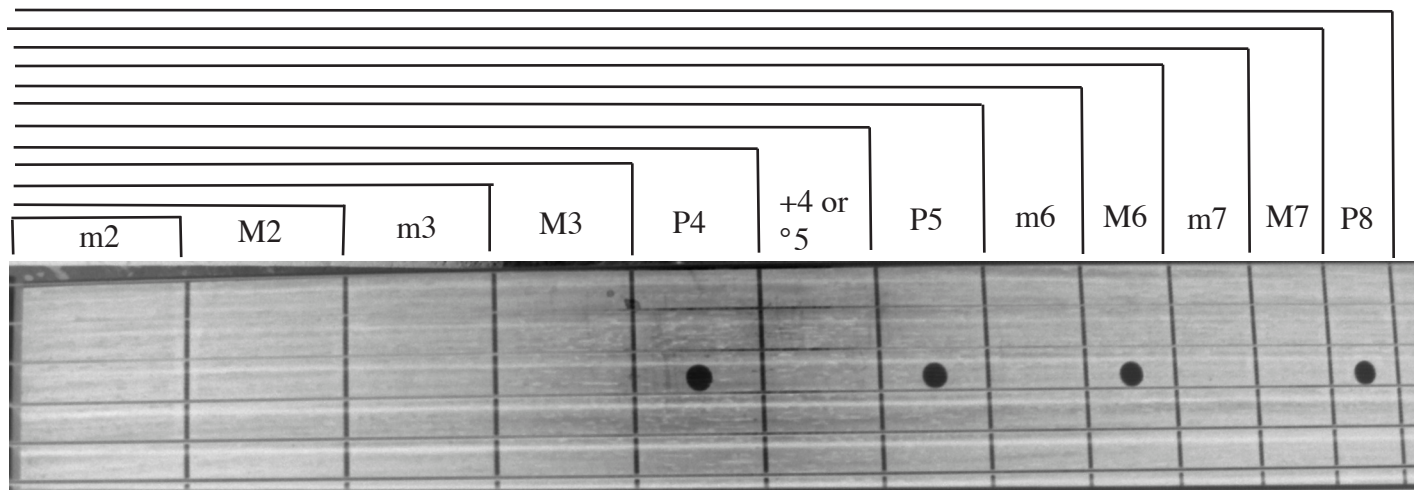
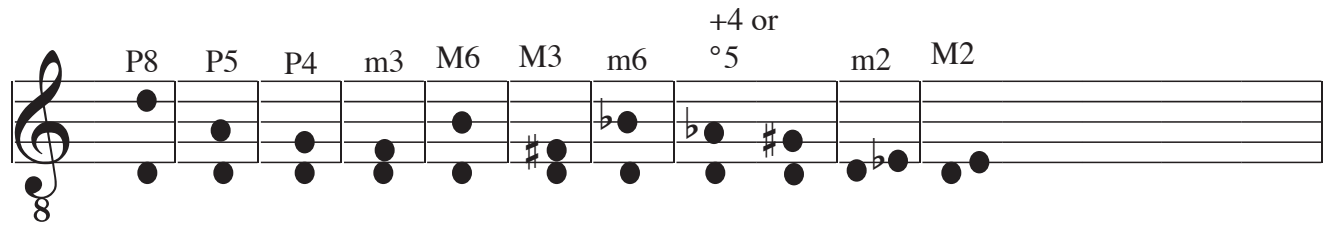
Perfect intervals sound "open" or "clear".

Major and minor 3rds impart a feeling or tone to the phrase or melody.

Major and minor 6ths are inversions of 3rds, so they impart a feeling or tone to the phrase or melody.

Sevenths have a certain tension that wants to resolve.

+4ths or °5ths have dissonance, and also want to resolve.



1 fret 2 frets 3 frets 4 frets 5 frets 6 frets 7 frets 8 frets 9 frets 10 frets 11 frets 12 frets