

# Tarantino Tools for Intervals

## The chart

diminished      minor      Perfect      Major      Augmented

If I have a perfect interval and want it to be augmented or diminished I simply add a semitone to it or take one away, without altering the note name.

If I have a major interval and want to make it diminished I have to go through the minor first before I get to the diminished.

If I have a major interval and want to make it augmented, I simply add a semitone to it.

If I have a minor interval and want it to be augmented, I have to go through major.

If I have a minor interval and want to make it diminished I simply take away a semitone.

Thus:

C → Fb (d4)      C → F (P4)      C → F# (A4)

E → Gb (d3)    E → G (m3)    E → G# (M3)    E → Gx (A3)

Remember:

- 1) Respect the pitch names: G cannot become F# or F, but must remain Gb or Gbb.
- 2) Never alter the given pitch

## A Step-by-Step guide

How do we determine what a particular interval on the page is?

- 1) First we count from the bottom note to the top note including both. Thus C → F# = C, D, E, F = four. The interval is a kind of fourth.
- 2) Then we determine whether the interval is major or not. In C major F is natural, therefore we can tell that C to F# is a half-step greater than the major.
- 3) We go to the Tarantino method and determine that when it is a half-step bigger than the major it is an augmented. Thus C → F# is an augmented fourth.

To determine what pitch is such-and-such interval above a given pitch:

- 1) Count up from the given pitch. E.g. Given F#, write a diminished 7 above. Count up seven steps: it is some form of E.
- 2) F# → E is a minor seventh. (In the F# major scale there is an E#)
- 3) Diminished intervals are ½ step smaller than minor intervals. So subtract a half-step from the upper pitch. E becomes Eb.
- 4) Viola! F# → Eb is a diminished seventh.

To determine what pitch is such-and-such interval below a given pitch:

- 1) Count down from the top note. e.g. Given Ab write a diminished 6 below. Count down six steps: it is some form of C.
- 2) Again count from the bottom note up. C → Ab is a half-step smaller than a Major Sixth (C→A). Thus it is a minor sixth.
- 3) A diminished sixth is a half-step smaller than a minor sixth. Alter the bottom note (you were given the top note Ab) to make the interval a half-step smaller. Change C to C#
- 4) Thus C# is a diminished sixth below Ab.
- 5) Viola!

Alternate Method

- 1) Invert the interval requested: A d6 inverted is an A3.
- 2) Determine an A3 above Ab.
- 3) Count 3: It will be a type of C.
- 4) Ab → C is a major third.
- 5) Augmented intervals are a half-step larger than major/Perfect intervals, so make your interval a half-step larger: Ab→C#
- 6) Take the C# down an octave.
- 7) Viola!