Most musicians can tell you the difference between 'major' and 'minor' chords.

But 'augmented'? 'Diminished'? Different inversions, and chord progressions...?

Then it gets trickier!

This training pack will introduce you to <u>recognising chords by ear</u>, starting with the four most important types of chord:

Major, *Minor*, *Augmented* and *Diminished* triads

How does it work?

The downloadable pack includes 4 MP3 files, each of which is about 3 minutes long. Each focuses on a different type of chord. You'll hear the chord, then its name, and then each note of the chord played in turn before the chord is repeated.

Once you've downloaded the tracks and added them to your favourite music player, listen to them regularly. Ear training is a skill which you want to practise *every day* to see real improvement. Maybe you can listen to these while eating breakfast each morning, or while walking to school, or on the drive home from work.

Listen Actively

We've talked a lot about <u>active listening</u> on the site, and this is a good example of where it's very valuable. By really paying attention while you listen to the tracks you'll be able to appreciate the sounds of the instrument and how the notes relate to one another more perceptively than if you just listen in a casual way.

When the notes are played one-by-one, listen carefully, and then try to pick them out when the chord is repeated. Over time you'll find that you can hear each note in the chord - even when it's played for the first time!

It's also important to pay attention to the spoken label for each chord, so you learn to associate the sound of the chord with its name.

Listen Casually

One of the benefits of the Training Mode of our apps is that it doesn't actually require interaction. Many users also report success with listening casually, allowing their subconscious to take in the examples while their conscious mind is busy with something else. In fact, we even implemented an "auto stop" feature for users who were using Training Mode while drifting off to sleep and didn't want it to run all night!

About this pack

We recently released a pack of interval training MP3s, and had some great feedback about them from students. The idea was to take the kind of easy and effective training which our iOS ear training apps provide, but put them in a form which anybody can use, any time.

Our [Chordelia](#) chord tutoring apps have two modes: Training and Testing. In Training Mode you can choose a lesson or a custom set of chord types, and then listen to examples of those chords (on piano, guitar, violin, French horn or clarinet) with each one named out loud after it plays. By listening you gradually build up an appreciation of the sounds of the chords and how they differ from each other. Then you can use Testing Mode to check if you've really got it.

Although this kind of interactive learning is the most effective, you can make great progress with Training Mode alone. We've adapted that idea to produce this set of downloadable tracks. **These will teach you 4 chord types: Major, Minor, Diminished and Augmented triads, in their 'root' position.** This is the same as the 'easy' difficulty in our Chordelia: Triad Tutor app and a great starting point for developing your chord recognition.

What's Next?

You can learn much more about chords and how to develop your aural skills for hearing chords on our website at www.EasyEarTraining.com/topic/Chords. You might also like to check out our [ear training apps](#), including two which focus on this kind of chord learning.

There are also lots of additional training packs we could produce, including:

• More types of chord (e.g. seventh chords)
• Different inversions
• Various instruments (e.g. guitar)
• Test tracks, which mix up the chord types and give you a chance to guess each one

We want to hear from you!

Are these tracks useful to you? What additions would you most like to see?

Let us know by emailing: feedback@EasyEarTraining.com.