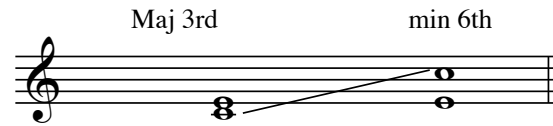


Inverting Intervals

When we invert something, we usually turn it up-side down or re-arrange it so it appears in it's opposite position. Generally speaking, the reason we invert intervals is the same reason we invert anything, that is, to accomodate or fit the given surroundings in the best way possible.

Ex.1b below demonstrates an inverted Major 3rd. Note the bottom note appears on top when the interval is inverted, consequently turning the interval up-side down and from a Major 3rd into a minor 6th.

Ex.1b



Inverting intervals is a useful skill for musicians to develop because it can better enable him/her to accomodate to a given musical environment. Inverting intervals can be useful when voice-leading, transposing, chord voicing and creating thematic variation or development. Notice when an interval is inverted the old and new interval always adds up to 9 (Ex.1c).

P 4th	P 5th	min 3rd	Maj 6th	Maj 2nd	min 7th
4 + 5 = 9		3 + 6 = 9		2 + 7 = 9	
d 5th	A 4th	d 7th	A 2nd	Maj 7th	min 2nd
5 + 4 = 9		7 + 2 = 9		7 + 2 = 9	

There are a few simple rules when inverting intervals.
They are:

Perfect stays Perfect

Major becomes minor

minor becomes Major

diminished becomes Augmented

Augmented becomes diminished

2nds become 7ths

3rds become 6ths

4ths become 5ths

5ths become 4ths

6ths become 3rds

7ths become 2nds