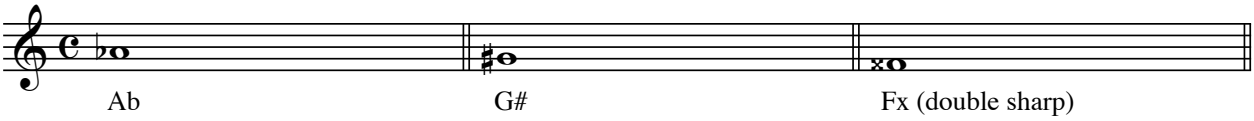
Enharmonic Intervals

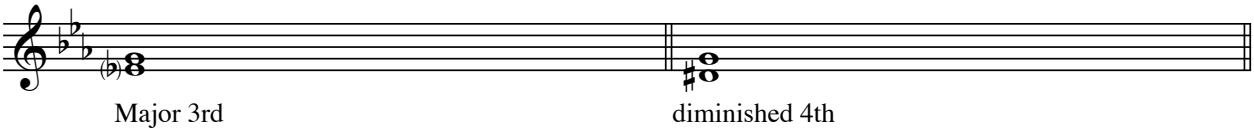
An *enharmonic-tone* is a tone or note that has been respelt. For example, notice the Ab in Ex.1i is enharmonically respelt as G# and Fx (x means double sharp). As illustrated with the tritone, minor 6th and minor 7th intervals on page 1, intervals can also be enharmonically respelt. This is done so according to the harmonic context.

Ex.1i



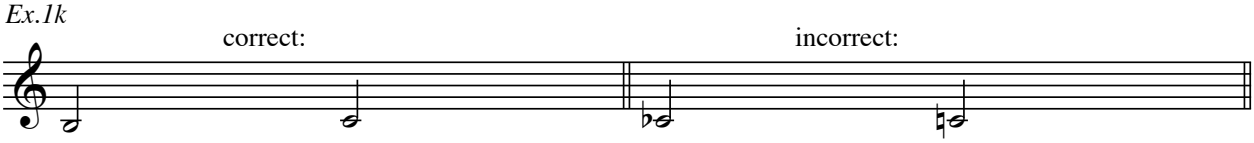
For example, if we are in the key of Eb and want to write an interval of an ascending major third from the 1st to the 3rd degree of the scale, it must be spelt Eb - G not D# - G. Note the interval D# - G looks like a fourth (in this case a diminished 4th) not a third (Ex.1j).

Ex.1j



Enharmonic spelling is also vital when voice leading. For example, the leading tone of C Major is B not Cb (Ex.1k).

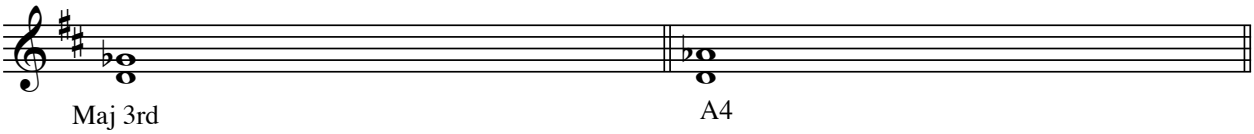
Ex.1k

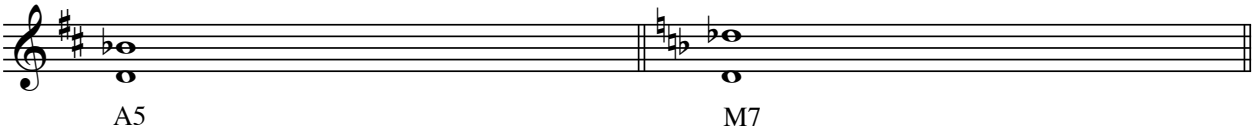


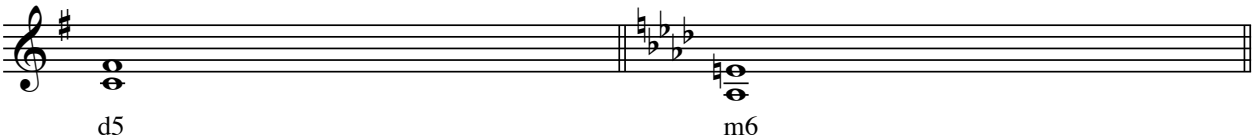
Enharmonic mis-spellings such as those demonstrated above can cause great confusion for musicians when sight-reading and sight-singing.

Assignment

Reconstruct the below enharmonically misspelt intervals according to their given names.







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