

Getting to know the sound of 3rds, 4ths and 5ths

Training your ears to recognise these harmonies begins with noticing them in famous songs and trying to determine which belongs in which category. Here's some to get you started.

The sound of [major] 3rds

Thirds are probably the most common harmonisation in pop music. They sound sweet and upbeat. Songs using thirds include:

Summer Holiday - Cliff Richard and the Shadows Brown Eyed Girl - Van Morrison To Be With You - Mr Big

The sound of 4ths

Fourths are darker and more tense. Popular in rock, metal and jazz. Songs using fourths include:

Smoke On The Water - Deep Purple Lie to Me - Jonny Lang Fool for Your Loving - Whitesnake Good Feeling - Reef

The sound of 5ths [power chords]

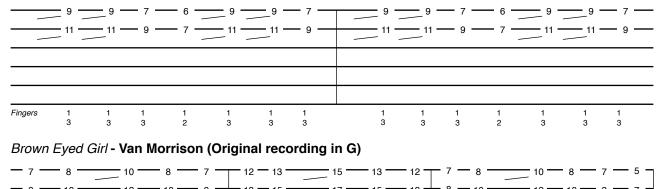
Fifths are neither major or minor so they'll work over everything. You would have heard many harmonised guitar solos using them and in the context of chords, they are also the basis of the power chord. Written A5, D5 etc. Songs include:

Fields of Joy - Lenny Kravitz I Believe in a Thing Called Love - The Darkness Can't Get Enough - Bad Company

Want to make time to be a better guitar player? See the paid course 15minuteguitarpractice.com

TAB examples: 3rds, 4ths and 5ths

Summer Holiday - Cliff Richard and the Shadows (Original recording in F#)

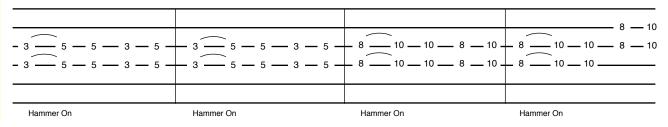


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Smoke On The Water - Deep Purple (Original recording in A)

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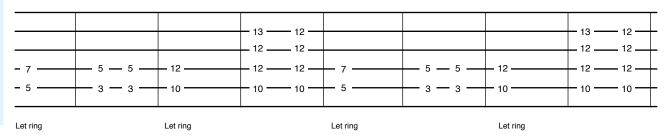
Lie To Me - Jonny Lang (Original recording in C)



Fields of Joy - Lenny Kravitz (Original recording in B)

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Can't Get Enough - Bad Company (Original recording in D)



The sound of 4ths

The sound of 5ths