

Preface

This Teacher Guide organizes the material in MMTA Theory Workbook Level 3 into a systematic plan so that a student can master all the content through short assignments over a 13-week period. The guide has three parts:

1) Prerequisites and Teaching Aides

This section outlines the skills students should have before beginning MMTA Theory Level 3, gives advice on what skills will need the most attention and includes a few teaching aides.

2) Weekly Lesson Plans

This section outlines a 13-week plan with material to be covered at the student's lesson and what should be assigned for homework. The plan assumes all the aural skill training will be done at the lesson. Teachers could ask students to do the aural skill examples at home using the recordings on the MMTA Website. In my experience, most students do not like to do this at home and need teacher guidance at the lesson to learn how to listen to the examples.

3) Weekly Student Assignments

These assignments are meant to be photocopied and sent home with the student.

Repetition is built into the curriculum. Some students will need all the repetition found in the lesson plans; others will not. The teacher will need to adjust plans to fit the needs of each individual student.

This guide was written by me and reflects my teaching style. I hope it helps you prepare your students for the MMTA Theory Exams.

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Chair, MMTA Theory Development Committee

MMTA Theory 3 – Prerequisites and Teaching Aides

Prerequisites for students

The Theory Workbooks are most successful when they are used as a review of core concepts rather than the first encounter for students.

Activities to do *before* starting Theory 3 Workbook:

- Master MMTA Theory Level 2 skills.
- Be able to play these scales hands alone, one octave, ending with I - V7- I or I - V- I .

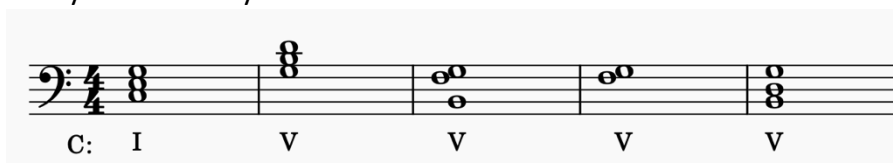
C, G, F, D, Bb major

A, E, D, B, G natural and harmonic minor

- Have experience identifying and writing key signatures for the above scales.
- Have experience playing chord inversions such as:



- Have experience playing ♩, ♪ and ♫ in duple meter.
- Have experience playing music that uses 6th, 7th, 8th intervals.
- Understand the terminology tonic (I, i) and dominant (V) and have experience harmonizing right hand melodies with these chords. The dominant chord can be played in any of these ways:



Most students have encountered these concepts after they have entered a Level 3 piano method book or have taken MMTA Piano Exam Level 2 or higher. Level 3 Theory Exam is a prerequisite for Piano Exam Level 4 and Contest Senior A and B.

Areas that usually need the most repetition:

- writing scales and triads
- sightreading/transposing
- harmonizing with tonic and dominant
- playbacks
- aural skill of identifying the diatonic intervals 2nd – 8th.
- Rhythmic dictation

These skills are given more repetition in the lesson plan outline.

Dice Game

Purpose: To review playing and writing scales and tonic/dominant/dominant 7th chords.

Materials needed:

One dice with the letters C/a, G/e, D/b, F/d, Bb/g written, one on each side, one side will be empty.

One regular playing dice

Penny

Blank staff paper

How the game works:

- Roll dice with letters. This is your tonic note. If you roll the blank side, you pick your key.
- Flip the coin.
 - Heads = major
 - Tails = minor
- Roll the regular die. This tells you your activity.

Activities:

- #1. Play the scale one octave, one hand, end with I-V-I.
- #2. Play the tonic and dominant triads in root position.
- #3. Write the scale on staff paper, begin with the key signature.
- #4. Write the tonic triad in root position on staff paper.
- #5. Write the dominant 7th chord in root position on staff paper.
- #6. Your choice.

MMTA Theory 3 – Exam Preparation

13 Week Lesson Plans

*Indicates an optional game or activity that is not in the Workbook.

Week 1: At lesson:

Aural:

Playbacks p. 67 Do 2 or 3.

Written and Keyboard:

Review key signatures, scales, and I-V-I for C, G, D, F, Bb major.

Assignment for Home:

*Memorize the key signatures for C, G, D, F, Bb major

Keyboard:

Play C, G, D, F and Bb major scales hands alone, end with I-V-I.

Aural:

*Sing Intervals:

Play middle C. Sing a M2 above. Play D to check if you are correct.

Play middle C. Sing a M3 above. Play E to check if you are correct.

Repeat with P4, P5, M6, M7, P8.

Randomize the order of the intervals.

Week 2: At lesson:

Aural:

Playbacks p. 67 Do 2 or 3.

Writing:

Rhythms p. 2 #1, p. 3 #1. After writing, clap and count each rhythm using a metronome (♩ =60).

Keyboard:

Sightread and Transpose p. 55 #1. Do all the steps at the top of p. 55.

Assignment for Home:

*Practice writing key signatures for C, G, D, F, Bb major scales.

Keyboard:

Play C, G, D, F and Bb major scales hands alone, end with I-V-I.

Sightread and Transpose p. 55 #2, p. 56 #3.

Written:

Rhythm p. 2 #2, #3, #4, #5

p. 3 #2, #3, #4, #5

After writing, clap and count each rhythm using a metronome (♩ =60).

Major Scale p. 6 all

Aural:

*Sing Intervals. See Assignment from Week 1.

Week 3: At lesson:

Aural:

Playbacks p. 67 Do 2 or 3.

Intervals p. 44 (teacher p. 87) Do 5 or 6.

Keyboard:

Sightread and Transpose p. 56 #4. Do all steps on top of p. 55.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play A, E, B, D, G natural minor scales. End with i-V-i.

Sightread and Transpose p. 57 #5.

Written:

Intervals p. 13 # 1, #2, #3

Intervals p. 15 #1, #2, #3

Aural:

*Sing Intervals. See Assignment from Week 1.

Week 4: At lesson:

Aural:

Playbacks p. 67 Do 2 or 3.

Intervals p. 44 (teacher p. 87) Do 5 or 6.

Written:

Relative minor scales p. 7 Do exercises together.

Triads p. 20 Do #2 together.

Triads and Inversions p. 1 Do #2 and #3 together.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play A, E, B, D, G natural minor scales. End with i-V-i.

Tonic and Dominant Chords p. 54 Play 3 tonic and dominant chords each day.

Sightread and Transpose p. 57 #6

Written:

Natural Minor Scales p. 8 Do all.

Major and Minor Key Signatures p. 9 Do all.

Triads p. 20 #3, #4, #5

Triads and Inversions p. 21 #3 - #10

Aural:

*Sing Intervals. See Assignment from Week 1.

Week 5: At lesson:

Aural:

Playbacks p. 67 Do 2 or 3.

Intervals p. 44 (teacher p. 87) Do 5 or 6.

Rhythmic Dictation p. 46 (teacher p. 90) Do 2 or 3.

Written:

Harmonic Minor Scale p. 10 Do #1 together.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play A, E, B, D, G harmonic minor scales. End with i-V-i.
Sightread and Transpose p. 58 #7

Written:

Harmonic Minor Scale p. 10 #2, #3, #4
Practice writing scales p. 11 #1, #2, #3
Intervals p. 14 #4, #5, #6, #7
Intervals p. 15 #4, #5, #6
Triads and Inversions p. 22 #1, #2, #3

Week 6: At lesson:

Aural:

Rhythmic Dictation p. 46 (teacher p. 90) Do 2.
Aural Identification of Scales p. 43 (teacher p. 86) Do 3 or 4.

Written:

Seventh Chord p. 23 Introduce concept of V7. Do #2 together.
Tonic, Dominant, Dominant 7th Chords in Major Keys p. 24. Introduce concept.
Do p. 25 together.

Keyboard:

Harmonize p. 63 #1. Do all steps at top of p. 63.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play I and V in root position of A, E, D, G, B minor.
Harmonization p. 63 #2, p. 64 #3, #4 (Do these on different days.)

Written:

Scales and Key Signatures p. 11 #4, #5, #6
Triads and Inversions p. 22 #4, #5, #6
Seventh Chords p. 23 Do all.
I and V7 p. 28 #1, #2, #3
Analysis 1 p. 36

Week 7: At lesson:

Aural:

Identification of Scales p. 43 (teacher p. 86) Do 3 or 4.
Harmonic Dictation p. 45 (teacher p. 89) Do 3 or 4.
Rhythmic Dictation p. 46 (teacher p. 90) Do 2 or 3.

Keyboard:

Harmonize p. 64 #5

Written:

Tonic, Dominant, Dominant 7th in Minor Keys. Do p. 27 together.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play I and V in root position of C, G, D, F, Bb major.
Harmonization p. 64 #6, p. 65 #7 (Do these on different days.)

Written:

Scales p. 12 #7, #8, #9, #10

Tonic and Dominant Chords p. 28 #4, p. 29 #5, #6

Analysis 2 p. 37

Week 8: At lesson:

Aural:

Intervals p. 44 (teacher p. 87) Do 5 or 6.

Phrase and Form p. 49 (teacher p. 92) Do 2 or 3.

Rhythmic Dictation p. 40 (teacher p. 90-91) Do 2.

Written:

Harmonizing with I and V p. 30-31 Do #1 together.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Scales p. 53 Play 3 scales each day. End with I-V-I.

Sightread and Transpose p. 58 #8

Harmonize p. 65 #8, #9

Written:

Tonic and Dominant-Seventh Chords p. 29 #7, #8

Harmonizing with I and V p. 31 #2, p. 32 #1

Analysis 3 p. 38

Week 9: At lesson:

Aural:

Intervals p. 44 (teacher p. 87) Do 5 or 6.

Phrase and Form p. 49 (teacher p. 92) Do 2 or 3.

Melodic Dictation p. 51 (teacher p. 98) Do 3.

Writing:

Section 4: Two Part Counterpoint. Read p. 16 together. Do #1 and #2 together.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play a different major scale and its relative natural and harmonic minor scale
each day: C, G, D, F, Bb major and A, E, B, D, G minor. End with I-V-I.

Play I and V in root position of A, E, D, G, B minor.

Sightread and Transpose p. 59 #9, #10

Harmonize p. 65 #10; p. 66 #11

Written:

Rhythm p. 2 #6, #7, #8, #9. Clap or tap with a metronome after adding the time
signatures.

Tonic and Dominant Chords p. 29 #9, #10

Counterpoint p. 17 #1, #2, #3

Harmonizing a melody p. 32 #2, #3, #4

Analysis 4 p. 39

Week 10: At lesson:

Aural:

Playbacks p. 67 Do 2 or 3.

Phrase and Form p. 49 (teacher p. 92) Do 2 or 3.

Melodic Dictation p. 51 (teacher p. 98) Do 3.

Rhythmic Dictation p. 46 (teacher p. 90) Do 2.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play a different major scale and its relative natural and harmonic minor scale
each day: C, G, D, F, Bb major and A, E, B, D, G minor. End with I-V-I.

Play I and V in root position in any key p. 54.

Sightread and Transpose p. 60 #11, #12

Harmonize p. 66 #12

Written:

Rhythm p. 3 #6, #7, #8, #9. Clap or tap with a metronome after adding the time
signatures.

Counterpoint p. 17 #4, #5, p. 18 #6

Harmonizing a melody p. 32 #5, #6

Analysis 5 p. 40

Week 11: At lesson:

Aural:

Playbacks p. 67 Do 2 or 3.

Intervals p. 44 (teacher p. 87) Do 5 or 6.

Harmonic Dictation p. 45 (teacher p. 89) Do 2 or 3.

Rhythmic Dictation p. 46 (teacher p. 90) Do 2 or 3.

Phrase and Form p. 49 (teacher p. 92) Do 2.

Melodic Dictation p. 51 (teacher p. 98) Do 3.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play a different major scale and its relative natural and harmonic minor scale
each day: C, G, D, F, Bb major and A, E, B, D, G minor. End with I-V-I.

Play I and V in root position any key p. 54.

Sightread and Transpose p. 61 #13 and #14

Written:

Counterpoint p. 18 #7, #8, #9, #10

Analysis 6 p. 41

Aural:

*Sing Intervals. See assignment for Week 1.

Week 12: At lesson:

Give the Sample Aural Test p. 72 (teacher p. 101).

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play a different major scale and its relative natural and harmonic minor scale
each day: C, G, D, F, Bb major and A, E, B, D, G minor. End with I-V-I.

Play I and V in root position of any key p. 54.

OR: In place of the above, *play the dice game 3 times every day.

Sightplay and transpose p. 62 #15

Written:

Do the Sample Written Test p. 69-71.

Aural:

*Sing Intervals. See assignment from Week 1.

Week 13: At lesson: Give the Sample Keyboard Test p. 74 (teacher p. 104).

Aural Skills: Review areas that were weak on the sample test.

Assignment for Home:

Keyboard:

Play a different major scale and its relative natural and harmonic minor scale
each day: C, G, D, F, Bb major and A, E, B, D, G minor. End with I-V-I.

Play I and V in root position of C, G, D, F, Bb major.

Written:

Assign review of any weak areas.

*Play the dice game 3 times every day.

Aural:

*Sing Intervals. See assignment from Week 1.

Take the test with confidence!



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #1 Date _____

- Play 2 major scales each day, each hand alone, one octave, end with I-V7-I.
Check off the scales you play:

C G D F Bb major

- Memorize the key signatures for C, G, D, F, Bb major.
- Sing Intervals every day.
Play middle C. Sing a M2 above. Play D to check if you are correct.
Play middle C. Sing a M3 above. Play E to check if you are correct.
Repeat with P4, P5, M6, M7, P8.
Change the order of the intervals.



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #2 Date _____

- Play 2 major scales each day, each hand alone, one octave, end with I-V7-I. Check off the scales you play:

C G D F Bb major

- _____ Write the key signatures for C, G, D, F, Bb major scales on staff paper.
- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 55 #2.
- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 56 #3.
- _____ p. 2 #2, #3, #4, #5 Clap and count each rhythm with metronome ♩ = 72.
- _____ p. 3 #2, #3, #4, #5 Clap and count each rhythm with metronome ♩ = 72.
- _____ p. 6 all
- Sing Intervals M2, M3, P4, P5, M6, M7, P8 every day. See Week 1 assignment.



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #3 Date _____

- Play 2 natural minor scales each day, each hand alone, one octave, end with i-V7-i.
Check off the scales you play:

A E B D G natural minor

- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 57 #5.
- _____ p. 13 #1, #2, #3
- _____ p. 15 #1, #2, #3
- Sing Intervals M2, M3, P4, P5, M6, M7, P8 every day. See Week 1 assignment.



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #4 Date _____

- Scales and chords:

Play 2 natural minor scales each day, each hand alone, one octave.

End with I-V7-I.

Play the tonic and dominant triads in **root position** of the keys you pick.

Remember that the dominant triad is always major.

Check off the keys you play:

A E B D G natural minor

- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 57 #6
- _____ p.8 all
- _____ p. 9 all
- _____ p. 20 #3, #4, #5
- _____ p. 21 #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10
- Sing Intervals M2, M3, P4, P5, M6, M7, P8 every day. See Week 1 assignment.



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #5 Date _____

- Scales and chords:

Play 2 **harmonic** minor scales each day, each hand alone, one octave.

End with I-V7-I.

Play the tonic and dominant triads in **root position** of the keys you pick.

Remember that the dominant triad is always major.

Check off the keys you play:

A E B D G harmonic minor

- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 58 #7
- _____ p. 10 #2, #3, #4
- _____ p. 11 #1, #2, #3
- _____ p. 14 #4, #5, #6, #7
- _____ p. 15 #4, #5, #6
- _____ p. 22 #1, #2, #3



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #6 Date _____

- Each day play the tonic and dominant triads in **root position** of two different keys.
Check off the keys you play:

A E B D G minor

- _____ Harmonization p. 63 #2
- _____ Harmonization p. 64 #3
- _____ Harmonization p. 64 #4
- _____ p. 11 #4, #5, #6
- _____ p. 22 #4, #5, #6
- _____ p. 23 all
- _____ p. 28 #1, #2, #3
- _____ p. 36 #1



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #7 Date _____

- Each day play the tonic and dominant triads in **root position** of two different keys.
Check off the keys you play:

C G D F Bb major

- _____ Harmonization p. 64 #6
- _____ Harmonization p. 65 #7
- _____ p. 12 #7, #8, #9, #10
- _____ p. 28 #4
- _____ p. 29 #5, #6
- _____ p. 37 #2



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #8 Date _____

- Scales and chords:

Play 3 scales each day, each hand alone, one octave. End with I-V7-I.

Cross off the scales you play:

A E B D G natural minor

A E B D G harmonic minor

C G D F Bb major

- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 58 #8
- _____ Harmonize p. 65 #8
- _____ Harmonize p. 65 #9
- _____ p. 29 #7, #8
- _____ p. 31 #2
- _____ p. 32 #1
- _____ p. 38 #3



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #9 Date _____

- Scales and chords:

Play 3 scales each day, each hand alone, one octave. End with I-V7-I.

Cross off the scales you play:

A E B D G natural minor

A E B D G harmonic minor

C G D F Bb major

- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 59 #9
- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 59 #10
- _____ Harmonize p. 65 #10
- _____ Harmonize p. 66 #11
- _____ p. 2 #6, #7, #8, #9 Clap with a metronome after adding the time signature. ♩ =66.
- _____ p. 29 #9, #10
- _____ p. 17 #1, #2, #3
- _____ p. 32 #2, #3, #4
- _____ p. 39 #4



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #10 Date _____

- Scales and chords:

Play 3 scales each day, each hand alone, one octave. End with I-V7-I.

Play the tonic and dominant triads in **root position** of the keys you pick.

Check off the scales you play.

A E B D G natural minor

A E B D G harmonic minor

C G D F Bb major

- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 60 #11
- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 60 #12
- _____ Harmonize p. 66 #12
- _____ p. 3 #6, #7, #8, #9 Clap with a metronome after adding the time signature. ♩ =66.
- _____ p. 17 #4, #5 p. 18 #6
- _____ p. 32 #5, #6
- _____ p. 40 #5



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #11 Date _____

- Scales and chords:

Play 3 scales each day, each hand alone, one octave. End with I-V7-I.

Play the tonic and dominant triads in **root position** of the keys you pick.

Check off the scales you play.

A E B D G natural minor

A E B D G harmonic minor

C G D F Bb major

- Sing Intervals M2, M3, P4, P5, M6, M7, P8 every day. See Week 1 assignment.

- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 61 #13

- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 61 #14

- _____ p. 18 #7, #8, #9, #10

- _____ p. 41 #6



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #12 Date _____

- Scales and chords:

Play 3 scales each day, each hand alone, one octave. End with I-V7-I.

Play the tonic and dominant triads in **root position** of the keys you pick.

Check off the scales you play.

A E B D G natural minor

A E B D G harmonic minor

C G D F Bb major

- Sing Intervals M2, M3, P4, P5, M6, M7, P8 every day. See Week 1 assignment.
- _____ Sightread and Transpose p. 62 #15
- _____ p. 69-70 Do the Sample Written Test. Do not look at a piano when doing this.



MMTA Theory Level 3

Assignment #13 Date _____

- Scales and chords:

Play 3 scales each day, each hand alone, one octave. End with I-V7-I.

Play the tonic and dominant triads in **root position** of the keys you pick.

Check off the scales you play.

A E B D G natural minor

A E B D G harmonic minor

C G D F Bb major

- Play the dice game.

- Sing Intervals M2, M3, P4, P5, M6, M7, P8 every day. See Week 1 assignment.