



Intonation Adjustments

The chart below has been circulating on the internet for some time, though it is clearly of an earlier provenance. The adjustments described here agree mostly with the tuning instructions previously provided on this website, but contain much more detail in their applications to specific chords, most interestingly noting that some intervals above the root will be tuned differently depending upon the context. These adjustments represent those most commonly made when tuning chords in large and small ensembles. Please be aware, however, that these adjustments are not always appropriate when performing with piano or other keyboard instruments, as these adjustments are based on just intonation, while pianos are tuned, "in theory," according to equal temperament. Of course, whether you are playing in an ensemble, with piano, or even alone, YOUR EAR is the best guide to proper intonation, since a number of variables could necessitate adjustments in pitch that deviate from what is indicated here. The simple phrase "if it sounds good, it is good" definitely applies.

THE "IN TUNE" CHORDS OF JUST INTONATION

In the following chords the notes of equal temperament are considered to be "0" (zero) pitch. All of the IN TUNE chords are based on the root "C" which is equal tempered "0" pitch. Cents +X, or -X indicates the cents difference necessary to be IN TUNE from the equal tempered "0" pitch.

Regardless of the frequency of the starting point the structure of the chord remains constant. Therefore, the pitches of the notes shown here would occur on each of the twelve equal tempered roots...only the frequencies would be different.

Thanks to Mr. Ward Widener and his fabulous AccuTone Tuner for calculating the notes of these IN TUNE chords of just intonation.