

MAJOR SCALE EXPLAINED

MAJOR SCALE FORMULA: W W ½ W W W ½ (W=whole step 1/2 = half step)

- Although there are different types of scales, the major scale is used most of the time.

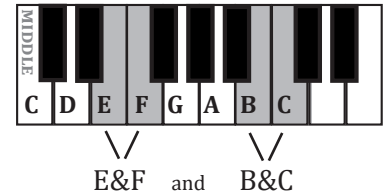
SCALES

SCALE: A group of notes stepping up or down by a specific formula of whole steps and half steps.

FORMULA: A recipe that lists the ingredients, measurements and instructions on how to make something.

HALF STEP: The smallest interval (distance) between two keys.

- Usually between a black key and a white key.
- Except, for the **two places** where there are **two white keys in a row**, between:

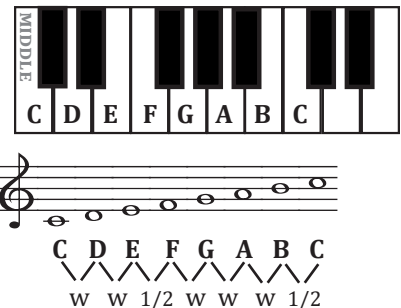


WHOLE STEP: Made up of two half steps.

C MAJOR SCALE SHOWS FORMULA

It's easy to see the formula with **C MAJOR SCALE** since:

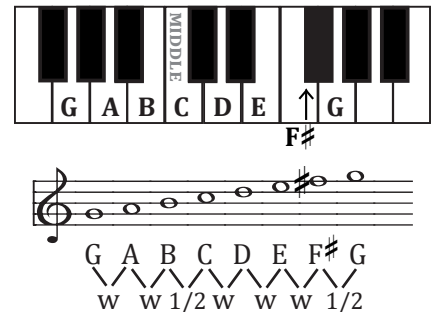
- C major scale only has white keys
- The half steps are at the only two places with no black keys inbetween.



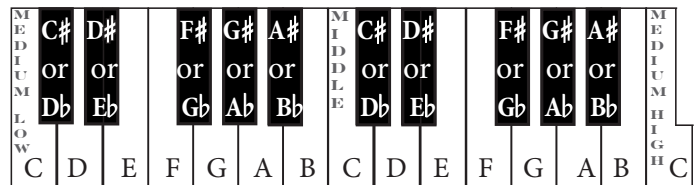
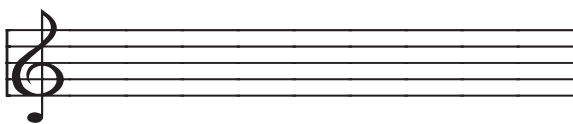
BUILDING G MAJOR SCALE USING FORMULA

G MAJOR SCALE:

- w • Between G & A -already a whole step/do nothing.
- w • Between A & B -already a whole step/do nothing.
- 1/2 • Between B & C -already a 1/2 step/do nothing.
- w • Between C & D -already a whole step/do nothing.
- w • Between D & E -already a whole step/do nothing.
- w • Between E & F -only a half step/make F # for a whole step.
- 1/2 • Between F# & G -already a 1/2 step/do nothing.



BUILD YOUR OWN SCALE:



- Draw 1st note on the staff. (Whatever the scale is named is the 1st note.)
- Draw a note on every line and space stepping up until there are eight notes.
- Label the notes with their letter names. (One of each letter through alphabet until 1st note is reached again.)
- Use sharps or flats to keep your scale formula. (#'s or b's go before the note and after the letter.)
(sharps = raise by a 1/2 step, flats = lower by a 1/2 step)