

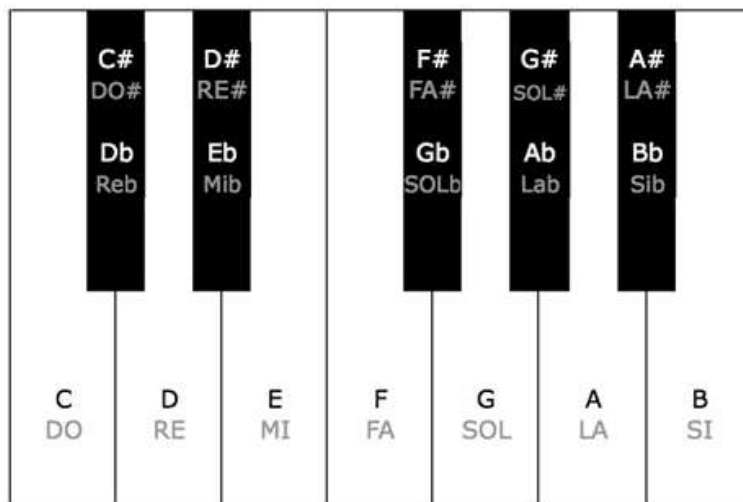
Louise Beer Hand out Lesson 6

In this hand out I am going to explain how to find your way around a piano or keyboard and how to play some notes along with your production.

If you have a keyboard at home that's great but if you don't I think this will help you have an understanding of the notes on the keyboard and how you can start using them. At the end I've added a short quiz for revision.

I'll start off by explaining what the notes are and what an octave is.

The notes on a musical keyboard are A,B,C,D,E,F,G with sharps and flats in between the notes. (they are the black notes)



This is an octave.

Normally we count the notes from C and end at B. Like in this diagram.

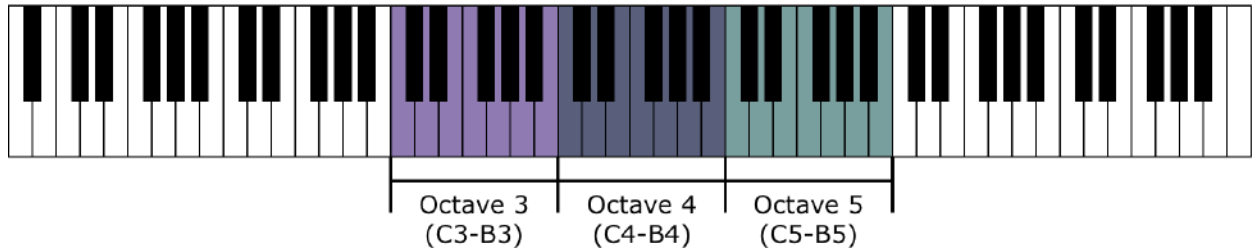
The total number of notes including the sharps or flats is 12. So there are 12 notes in an octave.

The black notes are known as **sharps** and **flats** and are shown

by a “#” sign or a “b” sign placed after the note.

As a general rule when you go from a white note upwards (to the right) to a black note then the black note is known as a sharp. If you move downwards towards a black note then the black note is known as a flat.

The image below shows you 3 octaves in the middle of a full sized keyboard.



A full size keyboard has seven octaves but often people don't need that many octaves for producing. You may have a keyboard that only has two octaves like the one below. These are great for production though as you can change the octaves to higher or lower ones.

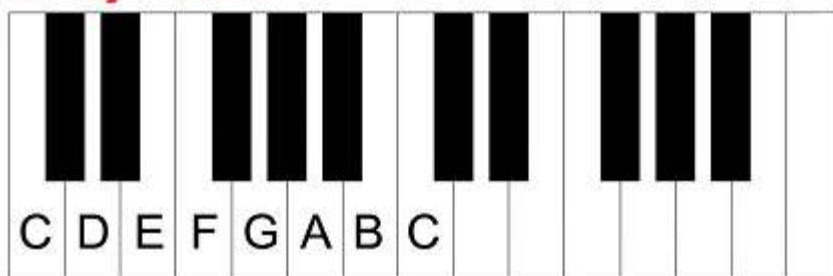
These are also cheap to buy and you can use them with most music software packages. There are quite a few free software packages around at the moment.



Music is generally played in a key.
 in a key. A key is like a combination of notes that sound good together.
 The most common key is the key of C. The key of C consists of all the white notes starting on C.

This makes it an easier scale to start playing with as there are no black notes.

C Major Scale



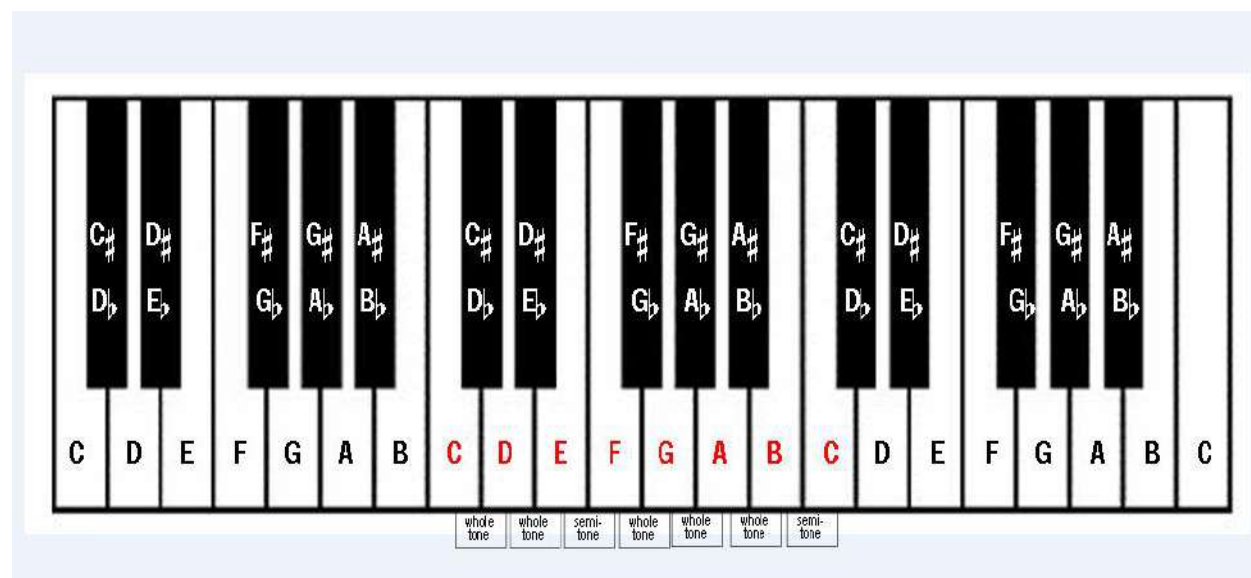
If you have access to a keyboard have a go at playing some notes in the key of C. Play C on your keyboard then play each white note until you get to C again. Then try playing the notes in between. If you have access to any music software try playing along to some drum loops.

Next I'll explain the spacing between the notes.

C is the root note and that is the note we start on.

As we go up the scale the spacing between the notes is as follows

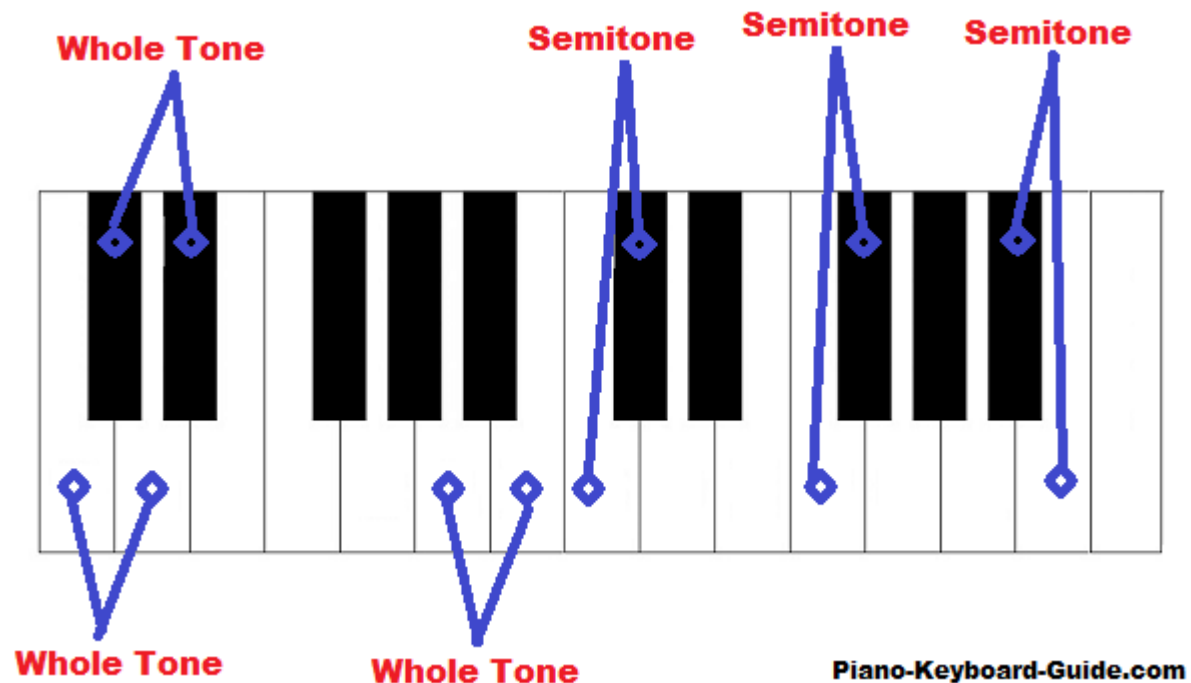
Whole tone, whole tone, semitone, whole tone, whole tone, whole tone, semitone,



If you look at the diagram above there are two notes in between C & D because there is a black note in between. The space between two notes is called a whole tone.

The space between E & F consists of one note so that is called a semi tone.

Have a look at the diagram below so you can see the differences between whole tones and semitones.

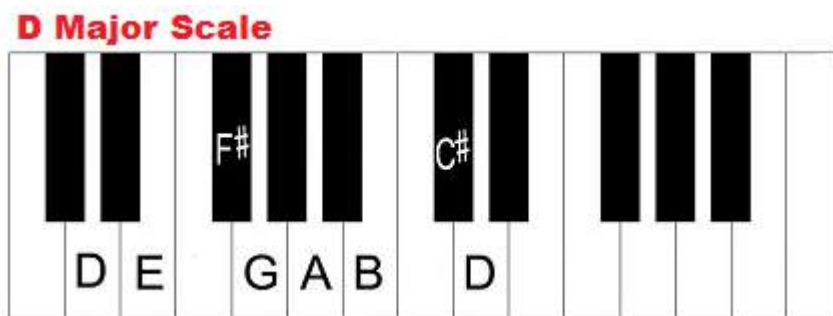


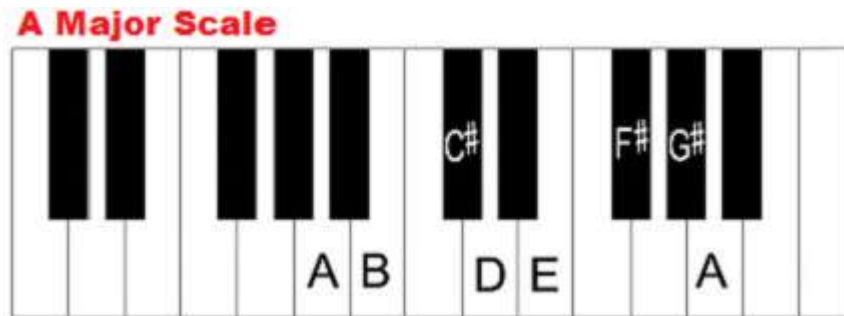
Now let's play the key of D. We will start on D which is the root note and count up just like we did in the key of C.

Whole tone, whole tone, semitone, whole tone, whole tone, whole tone, semitone,

You can use this way of counting up through any scale to work out what the notes are.

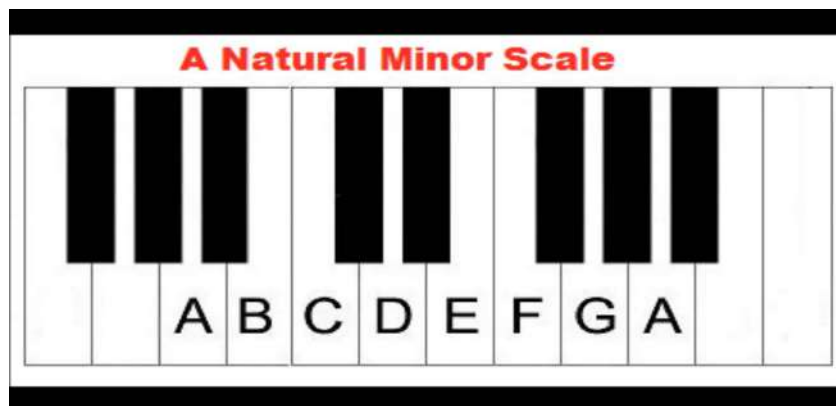
As you can see in this diagram there are two black notes in the key of D Major F# and C#





A major scale has 3 sharps. C#, F# and G#

There are also scales known as minor scales which I will go into in a future hand out. Just as a tip. if you do have access to a keyboard try playing the white notes between A and G. This is the key of A minor and listen to how it sounds in comparison to the key of C major. It has a much eerier sound which I really like. It's a great key to play in for production if you want something to sound darker. Again it's an easy scale to play because it only has white notes.



Revision quiz

How many octaves are there on a full size keyboard or piano.

What is the root note of the Key of C major ?

How many notes are there in an octave?

How many semitones are there between the notes A & B

How many sharps are there in the key of D Major ?

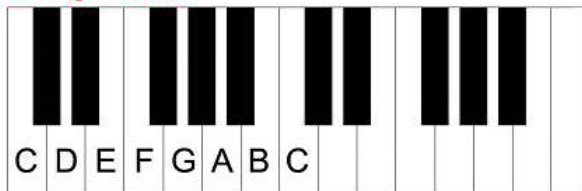
Below is a diagram with all of the notes of every scale for your reference.

All the best

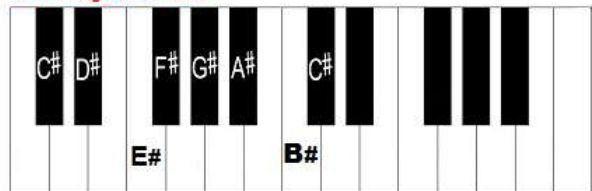
Louise

MAJOR SCALES

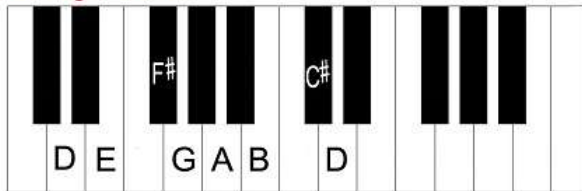
C Major Scale



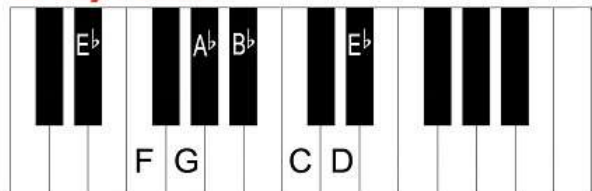
C# Major Scale



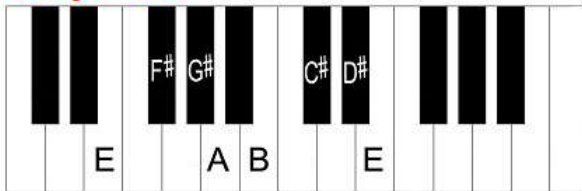
D Major Scale



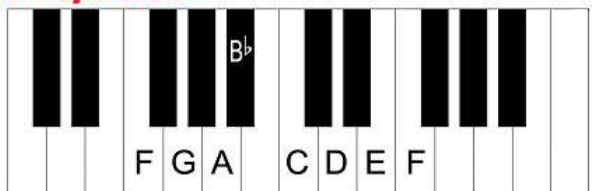
Eb Major Scale



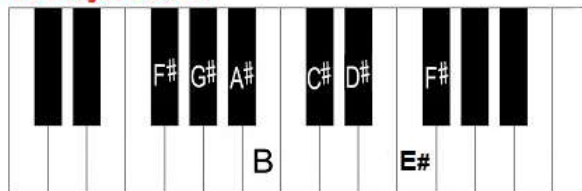
E Major Scale



F Major Scale



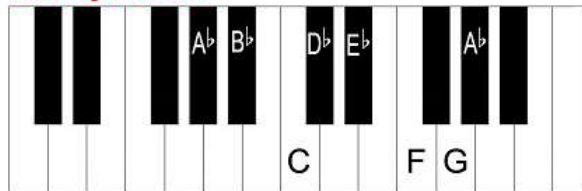
F# Major Scale



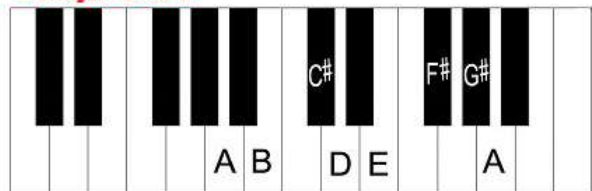
G Major Scale



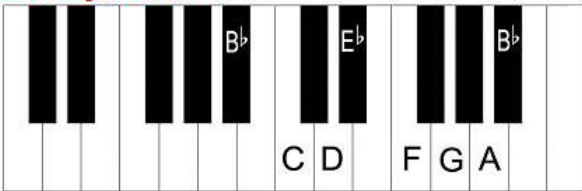
Ab Major Scale



A Major Scale



Bb Major Scale



B Major Scale

