

MAJOR SCALE

2-2-1-2-2-2-1 (Just a reminder)

Rules for scales:

1. You have to use all the note letters. If you start on “D”, you have to finish on “D” and use all the letters in between.
2. If you run out of letters, that is you get to “G” and haven’t use 8, start over with “A”.
3. A note letter may be used once and only once.
4. As you apply the phone number, you can only change the note to which you are going. You cannot change the current note. Consider that ripple effect.
5. If the note you are going to does not fit the prescribed interval, you must either lower it by assigning one or more flats or raise it by assigning one or more sharps. There are no other options. *[Note: While uncommon, it is not unusual to see double flats (bb) or sharps(x or ##) used. This comes about when obeying the origin letter of the note. For example, the tone you need is A but the actual chord note is B so you must use Bbb. Rather technical isn’t it.]*

Last time we looked at the C Major scale noting that by just using all the white piano keys, we had the scale correct. The C major scale has no sharps or flats so the “key signature” is nothing.

Take a look at a D scale.

1. List all the letters: D-E-F-G-A-B-C-D (8 notes, count them, yep, 8)
2. Take a look at the intervals:

Starting on D, there is a half step up to the (unnamed) black key and another half step up to E. That is the first 2 half step interval. So from D up to the black key and up to E is 2 half steps. So far, so good.

Note that there is no black key between E and F so they are 1 half step apart. That is a problem because the next interval is 2 half steps. Since the natural interval between E and F is only one half step, something must be done. Review rules 3, 4, and 5, particularly 5. I’ll wait.

(waiting)

OK, F won’t work, the interval is too small so it has to be enlarged by raising F one half step to F#. That is the Black key to the right of F and it now has a name: F#! But only for the key of D. In another key probably not.

So far: D-E-F# ... Now it is your turn. Continue applying the intervals. Also do scales for G, F, an B^b

Send me a message with the notes when you finish or if you have any questions.