Major Scales

A scale is a set of notes arranged diatonically.   A diatonic arrangement is a stepwise sequence (a C followed by a D followed by an E etc.). Scales are identified by the unique set of intervals found between each note in the scale. MAJOR scale's unique set of intervals are: whole, whole, half, whole, whole, whole, half. The major scale has a great model which is the unique sequence of notes from C to C on the piano.
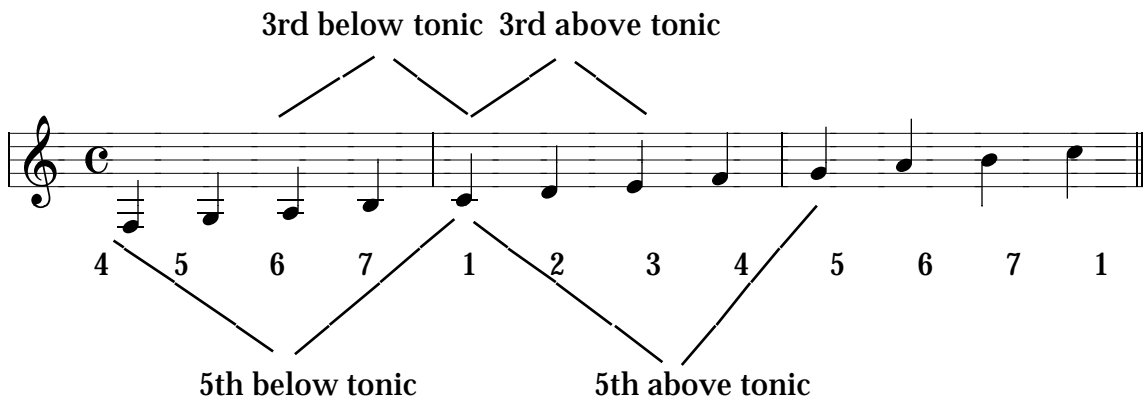
Whole Whole Half Whole Whole Whole Half

The major scale is made up of eight tones organized in a diatonic fashion ie. a C D E F G A B C. The first and last notes are an octave apart. The sequence of intervals found between each note in the scale is (W,W,1/2,W,W,W,1/2).

There are fifteen different major scales found in western music, our model (C) and seven scales with sharps and seven with flats.

The notes in a major scale can be numbered 1 thru 8. They also have names: the 1st note is the Tonic, the 2nd is the Supertonic, the 3rd is the Mediant (a third above the tonic, the 4th is the Subdominant (a fifth below the tonic), the 5th is the Dominant (a fifth above the tonic), the 6th is the Submediant (a third below the tonic), and the 7th is the Leading tone.

3rd below tonic 3rd above tonic

4   5   6   7   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   1

5th below tonic   5th above tonic

Sharp Major Scales Practice

Complete the sharp major scales found below by using the WWHWWWH concept learned on the previous page. You will notice that each scale has one more sharp than the previous scale. Notice where the new sharps are placed each time and also the relationship (the interval) of the starting note (the tonic) of each scale to the tonic of the scale before and after.

Flat Major Scales Worksheet

Complete the flat major scales below by using the WWHWWWH concept learned on the previous page. You will notice that each successive scale has one more flat that the previous scale. Notice where the new flats are placed within the scale each time and also the relationship (the interval) of the starting note (the tonic) of each scale to the tonic of the scale before and after.