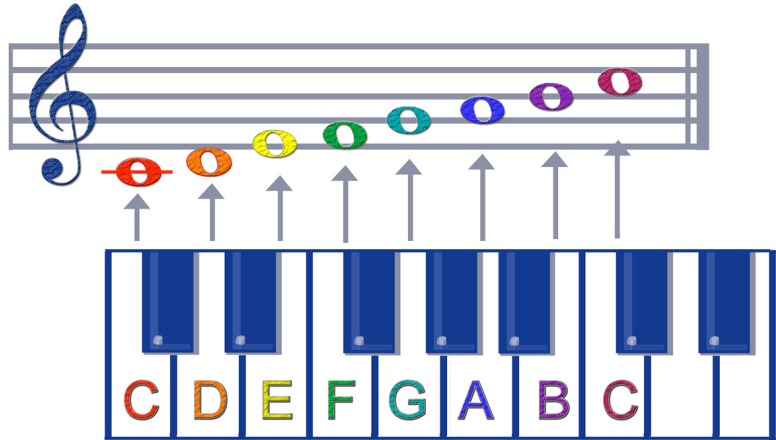


Different ways to think about a Scale

1. Notes on staff

Each symbol (circle on a line or space) represents a specific note location on your instrument. In this example, the first note is Middle "C" on the piano.



2. Note Names

The first 7 letters of the alphabet are used to name the white keys on the piano; for black keys, add either a sharp sign (#) or flat sign (b) after the note name to indicate if it is raised or lowered from the white note.

3. Numbers

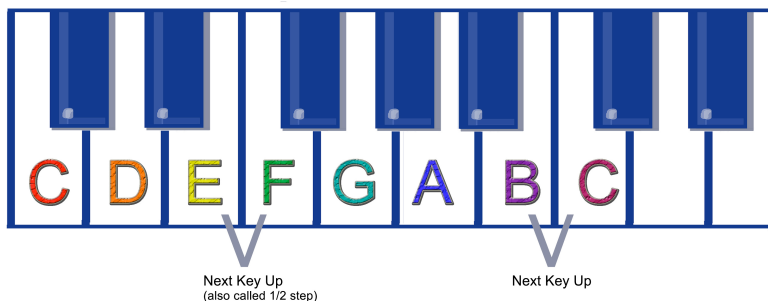
Using 7 numbers to represent the notes of the scale. *8 is really just another way to say note no. 1 at the top of the scale. Numbers apply to relative intervals of ANY of the 12 scales, making it easy to transpose (change) a song to a new key.



4. Solfège

Using 7 generic syllables (Do Re Me Fa Sol La Ti Do) to represent note scale groups. Like numbers, rather than naming exact notes, they instead indicate relative note relationships (the 7 notes of any given key) and can be used starting on any note. You can sing or play the numbers one through eight or the syllables Do to Do in any of the 12 keys.

Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do



5. Scale Formula

Focuses on how to build a scale based on patterns of notes intervals.

To build a major scale, leave an unused key (or fret if on a stringed instrument) between every note EXCEPT 3 & 4, and 7 & 8.

Some find it easiest to focus on a scale consisting of whole steps (an unused key / note in between 2 others) everywhere except between note numbers 3 & 4 and 7 & 8; others prefer to build the scale in their brains note by note: Note # 1, whole step to 2, whole step to 3, half step to 4, whole step to 5, whole step to 6, whole step to 7, and half step to 8. Using this formula, you can build a major scale on ANY starting note (again, in any of the 12 keys); and, using this, you can create a major scale by pattern, without sight-reading notes on a staff, or thinking note names, numbers, or syllables. You can also learn 4 notes of the scale at a time (C - D - E - F), and (G - A - B - C). Each set of 4 notes is called a TETRACHORD, which is easier to learn on instruments where you can't see the notes.

... continued ...