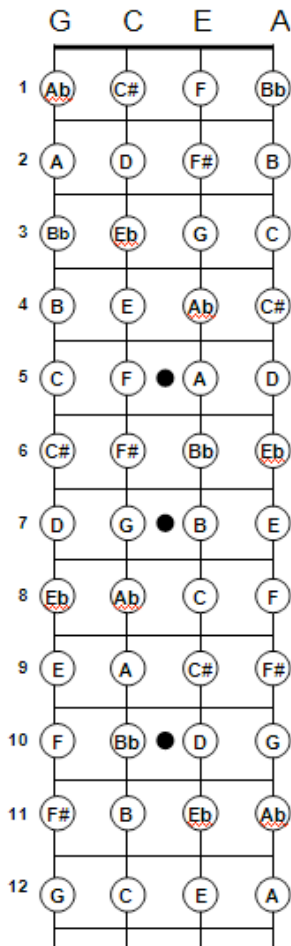


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All The Notes On All The Strings



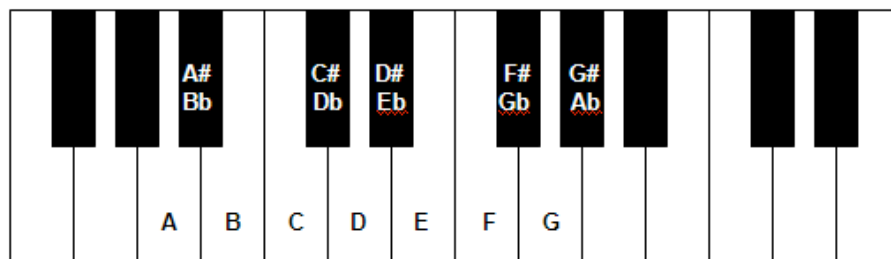
You don't need to memorize this diagram. But you do need to understand how to find the notes. To do this, you'll need to know two things: (1) the open tones of each string, and (2) the notes of the chromatic scale.

(1). The open tones (the note that sounds when the string is unfretted) of the four strings are G, C, E, and A. This is the familiar "My Dog Has Fleas" melody that all ukulele players know.

(2). Each time you move one fret higher on a string, you move one note higher on the chromatic scale. The twelve notes of the chromatic scale are A, A#/Bb, B, C, C#/Db, D, D#/Eb, E, F, F#/Gb, G, G#/Ab.

Looking at the diagram, you can see how the chromatic scale extends up the fretboard, one note at a time, starting at the open tone for each string.

If you're wondering why the chromatic scale doesn't always have a flat or sharp between each of the "natural" notes of the scale, take a look at the scale as it shows up on a piano keyboard. The white keys are the natural notes (A, B, C, ...) and the black keys are the sharps and flats. The irregular pattern of sharps and flats is represented in the irregular pattern of black keys on the piano. You can see that there are no sharps or flats between B and C, or between E and F.



Other Ways to Represent the C Scale

1. Guitar Tablature

Notes of C Scale*

(* D, G, & B are on open strings)

Guitar tablature is a picture of the 6 strings of the guitar (Low E on the bottom and high E on top). Numbers placed on a given string represents which fret to press to produce the note. In this example, to play a "C" note, press fret "3" of the A string (also called the 5th String). Many guitar tabs also include the related note on the right hand piano staff (Treble staff, as shown above). Some also show the note names (or circles on the frets) laid out in a guitar chord diagram layout (above, right), similar to guitar tab, but rotated 90° clockwise (low E string is on the Left).

2. Mandolin or Violin Tablature

Mandolin tablature (similar to guitar Tab) shows a picture of the 4 strings of the mandolin (Low G string on the bottom, and E on top) with numbers on frets that, when pressed, will produce specific notes. (The example above shows 2 octaves of the C scale in mandolin/ violin tablature.) Many tab charts also include the related note on the right hand piano staff (Treble staff, as shown above).

~~ BONUS: Guitar & Mandolin/ Violin Switcheroo Trick ~~

Guitar players can quickly transfer their guitar knowledge to mandolin and violin by flipping guitar chords or scales upside down and backwards on the mandolin or violin.