

Theory Sheet 1 davejonesgitar.co.uk

The box below shows the 12 notes used in music.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	A# Bb	B	C	C# Db	D	D# Eb	E	F	F# Gb	G	G# Ab

Notice there is not a # [sharp] or b [flat] between the notes B and C or E and F. All other notes have a # and b between them.

A# and Bb are the same note and are called enharmonic, which name you call them depends on the key you are in [more about that later].

The 'interval' between any note and the one next to it is called a SEMITONE [one fret], eg:- between A and A#[Bb] or between B and C.

The 'interval' between A and B or B and C# is called a TONE [two frets].

The major scale is made up of a pattern of tones and semitones, and that pattern is:-

TONE TONE SEMITONE TONE TONE TONE SEMITONE

Starting on the note C and following this pattern would make up the C major scale:-

	T	T	ST	T	T	T	ST	
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

The numbers below each note are the 'degrees' of the scale or scale 'spelling'.

Starting on the note G and following this pattern would make up the G major scale:-

	T	T	ST	T	T	T	ST	
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Notice that the 7th degree of the G major scale is called F# NOT Gb, this is because you cannot have two of the same letter names in the same scale.

Starting on the note D and following this pattern would make the D major scale:-

	T	T	ST	T	T	T	ST	
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Starting on the note F and following this pattern would make the F major scale:-

	T	T	ST	T	T	T	ST	
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	