

Building Block No. 2: Scaling the Summit is as Simple as Do-Re-Mi How to Form a Major Scale

Solfège Names:

These are the French names for the notes of the C Major Scale.

Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Si (Ti) Do

Scale Degree Numbers:

These are the numbers that refer to the position of each note in the scale.

Every major scale has 7 notes and then ends on the first note one octave higher.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

The C Major Scale:

The piano is set up so you can easily see how the scale system works. C

Major has no sharps and no flats.

Because of this there are no black keys used in this scale.

C D E F G A B C

whole step whole step half step whole step whole step whole step half step

The Pattern of Steps:

The C Major scale, composed of all white keys, shows you that there is a definite pattern of steps that you need to form the major scale.

As soon as you play the scale on your piano or keyboard, you will recognize the familiar sound of "Do-Re-Mi".

This is the key that unlocks the door to forming all of the major scales.

All you have to do is to follow the same pattern of whole steps and half steps, and you will have a major scale.

Example of how this works to form the E Major scale:

By following the same pattern of steps, you have to add sharps to 4 of the notes. Play the scale without the sharps and then with the sharps.

Notice how the one with sharps gives you the "Do-Re-Mi" sound.

E F# G# A B C# D# E

whole step whole step half step whole step whole step whole step half step