

# Major Scales

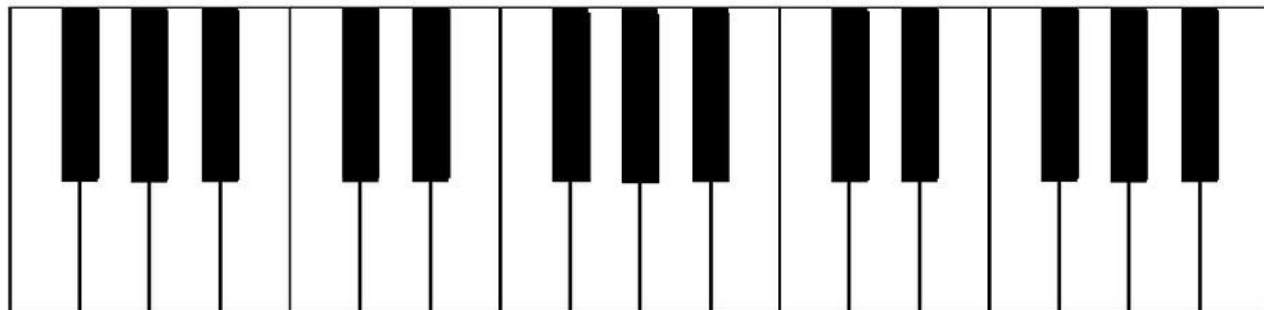
Intervals, Whole and Half Steps

# Major Scales

- Major Scales are made up of a combination of whole and half steps.
- There are 12 half steps between low G and high G, for example, and are the notes you play when playing a one-octave chromatic scale...



- Two half-steps equal a whole step.



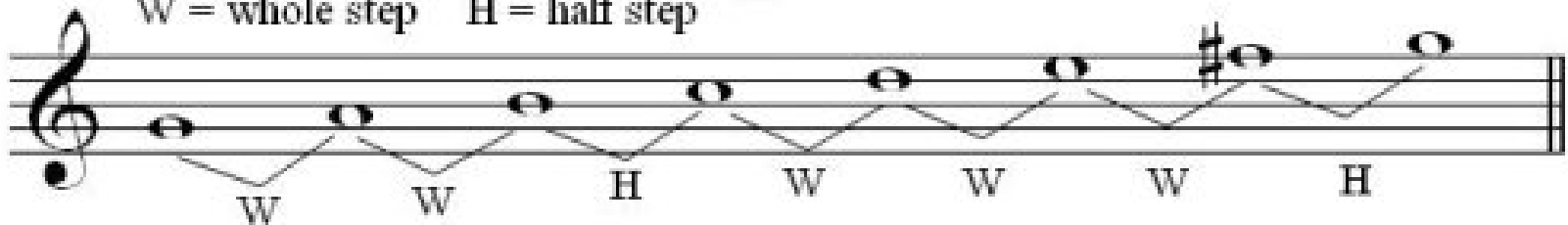
# Major Scale

- In a major scale the pattern of half and whole steps is:

W      W      H      W      W      W      H

G      A      B      C      D      E      F#      G

W = whole step    H = half step    or:



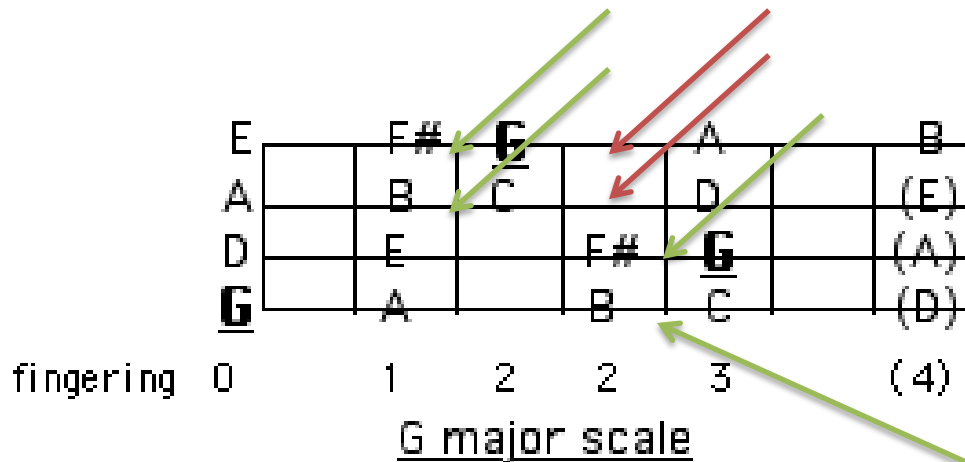
- This is something we also think about when play our scales and think finger positions...

# Major Scale

- The whole and half steps match our finger positions. You can see it here if I box things off... Between G and A is a whole step. (G# is in between them.) Then A to B another whole step. B to C is our first half step. And then we continue.

**W W H W W W H**  
**G A B C D E F# G**

- The second octave – we follow the same pattern, but our fingers are in slightly different positions now because of where the half steps occur.



# Writing Scales

- On this piece of paper, use yesterday's Circle of Fifths to label your key signatures on every line.
  - Start with C at the top and then do the sharps.
  - Your choice when you get to the Enharmonic keys.
  - Finish at the bottom with your F Scale.
  - Label each scale with the WWHWWWH pattern, ascending and descending.
    - Here's D Major (but use a key signature instead of accidentals.)



# And Now Minor Scales

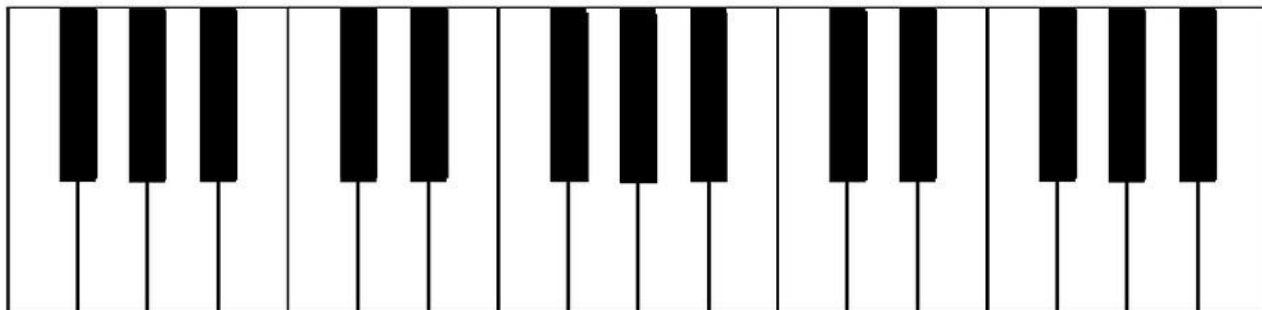
And Intervals, Whole and Half Steps

# Minor Scales

- Like Major Scales, Minor Scales are also made up of a combination of whole and half steps.
- Remember, there are 12 half steps between low G and high G, for example, and are the notes you play when playing a one-octave chromatic scale...



- And two half-steps equal a whole step...



# Minor Scale

- There are 3 types of minor scales – **Natural**, **Harmonic**, and **Melodic**. Musicians need to learn all three.
- Probably the most common minor scale, and the one you see on County and State Honor Band audition materials, is the melodic minor scale which is  $\frac{1}{2}$  minor and half major when ascending and fully minor when descending.
- Let's look at all three...



# Natural Minor

- Natural Minor scales use the following pattern of half and whole steps.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The notes of the natural minor scale are written from left to right: E4 (quarter), F4 (half), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), and E5 (quarter). Below the staff, blue downward-pointing chevrons indicate the intervals between consecutive notes. Under each chevron is a label: 'W' for whole steps and '1/2' for half steps. The interval pattern is W, 1/2, W, W, 1/2, W, W.

	W	1/2	W	W	1/2	W	W
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# Harmonic Minor

- Harmonic Minor scales use the following pattern of half and whole steps. It has a more Middle Eastern quality to its sound.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The scale is written as a sequence of notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5. Below the staff, blue downward-pointing chevrons indicate the intervals between consecutive notes. The intervals are: Whole (W) between C and D, Half (1/2) between D and E, Whole (W) between E and F, Whole (W) between F and G, Half (1/2) between G and A, Whole + Half (W+1/2) between A and Bb, and Half (1/2) between Bb and C.

W   1/2   W   W   1/2   W+1/2   1/2

# Melodic Minor

- Melodic Minor scales ascend and use the following pattern of half and whole steps. When descending, they do so in the natural minor form.

Musical notation for the ascending Melodic Minor scale in C minor (4/4 time). The notes are C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The intervals between notes are indicated by blue downward-pointing chevrons and labels below the staff: W (whole), 1/2 (half), W (whole), W (whole), W (whole), W (whole), 1/2 (half).

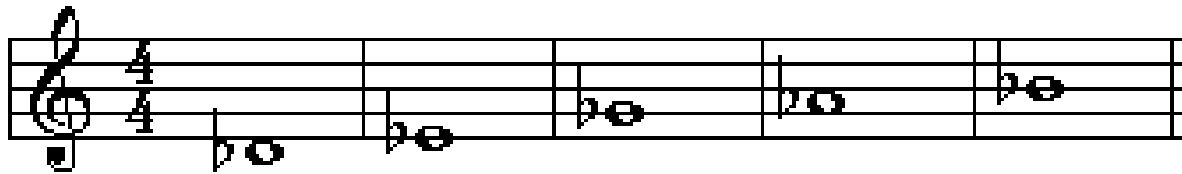
Musical notation for the descending Melodic Minor scale in C minor (4/4 time). The notes are C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The intervals between notes are indicated by blue downward-pointing chevrons and labels below the staff: W (whole), W (whole), 1/2 (half), W (whole), W (whole), 1/2 (half), W (whole).

# Two additional scales

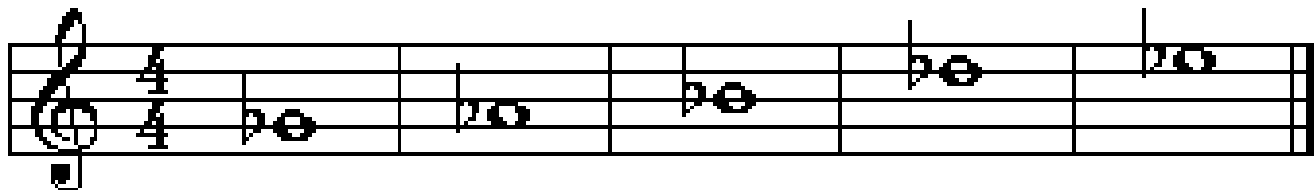
- A **Pentatonic** scale is a **five-tone scale**, which has its beginning in antiquity. There are traces of this scale in Oriental and American Indian music. This scale does not have a leading tone, which gives the scale its unique sound. The scale has two forms. The first one uses the group of two black keys followed by three black keys. The pattern is as follows:

# Pentatonic Scale

- The easiest way to demonstrate a Pentatonic scale is to use the black keys – start on either the Db or Gb and there you go!



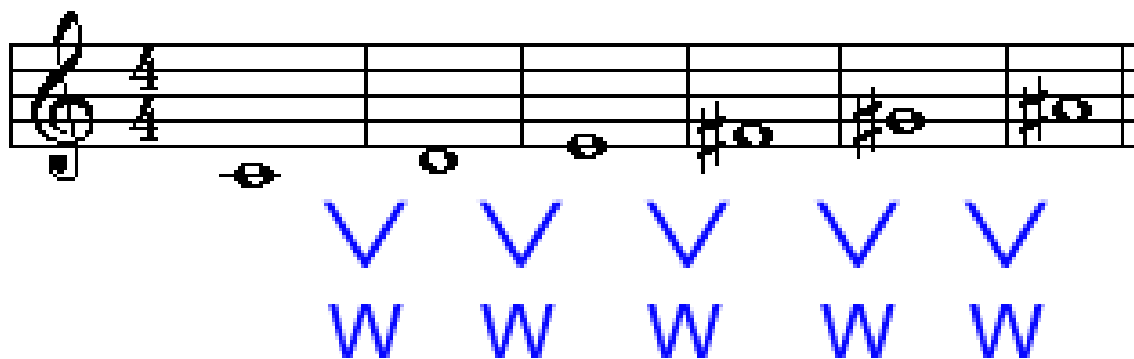
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓  
W W+1/2 W W



↓ ↓ ↓ ↓  
W W W+1/2 W

# Finally – the Whole Tone Scale

- Whole Tone Scales differ from the other scales because it only has 6 tones. It uses the following pattern:



- As you can see – all whole steps, hence its name, Whole Tone scale.