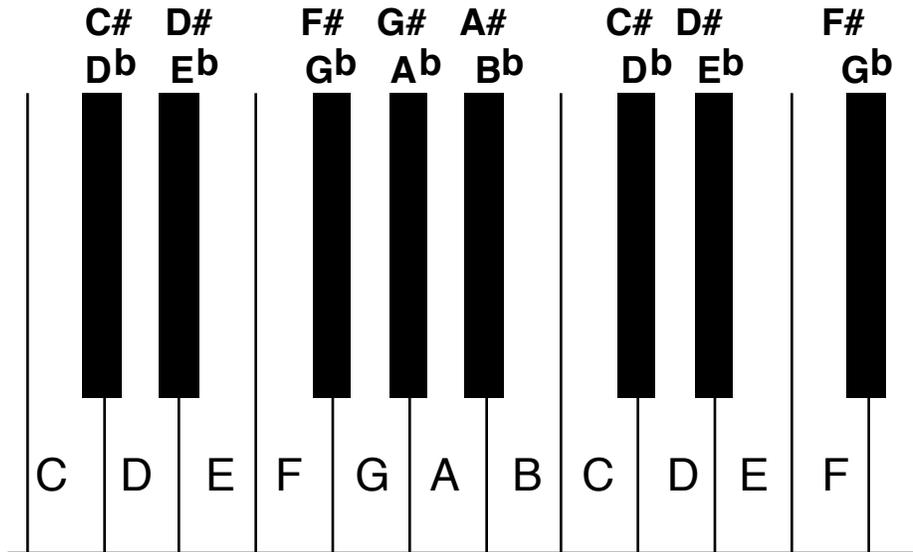


Scale Construction



A **half step** is the distance between two *adjacent* keys on the keyboard.
 ex.: c-c#, e-f, a-a#

A **whole step** is equal to two half steps.
 ex.: c-d, e-f#, a-b

A **major scale** is a group of eight notes arranged in the following pattern of whole and half steps: W-W-H-W-W-W-H
 ex.: d-e-f#-g-a-b-c#-d

Minor scales come in three variations. They are **Natural, Harmonic, and Melodic minors**. They are also either *parallel* or *related* to a major scale.

Parallel scales share the same starting pitch.
 ex: C Major and c minor are parallel keys

Related scales share the same key signature
 ex: E^b Major and c minor are related keys.

The following scale sheet shows Major and minor keys that are related. The minor scale related to its corresponding Major scale may be found by starting on the 6th scale degree of the Major scale. This is a **Natural minor scale**.

Natural minor: uses the same pitches as its related major, but starts on the 6th scale degree of the Major.

Harmonic minor: raise the 7th degree by 1/2 step of the Natural minor

Melodic minor: raise the 6th and 7th degrees by 1/2 step ascending, and play the Natural minor descending.

Scale Patterns

Major scales: W-W-H-W-W-W-H

Natural Minor scales: W-H-W-W-H-W-W

Harmonic Minor scales: W-H-W-W-H-Aug2nd-H

Melodic Minor scales: ascending: W-H-W-W-H-W-W
descending: W-W-H-W-W-H-W

Order of Flats and Sharps

b's >---> **B-E-A-D-G-C-F** <---< **#'s**

Please memorize the order of flats and sharps as illustrated above. Flats are read from left to right and sharps are read from right to left.

Determining the Starting Pitch

The starting pitch of a flat (major) scale is always the next to the last flat.

- ex: 1^b = F Major (the only exception to the rule).
2^b = B^b Major
3^b = E^b Major
4^b = A^b Major
5^b = D^b Major
6^b = G^b Major
7^b = C^b Major

The starting pitch of a sharp (major) scale is always 1/2 step above the last sharp.

- ex: 1[#] = G Major
2[#] = D Major
3[#] = A Major
4[#] = E Major
5[#] = B Major
6[#] = F[#] Major
7[#] = C[#] Major

Scale Practice

Observations:

1. There are only 12 major scales.
2. Not including your lesson day, there are six practice days during the week.

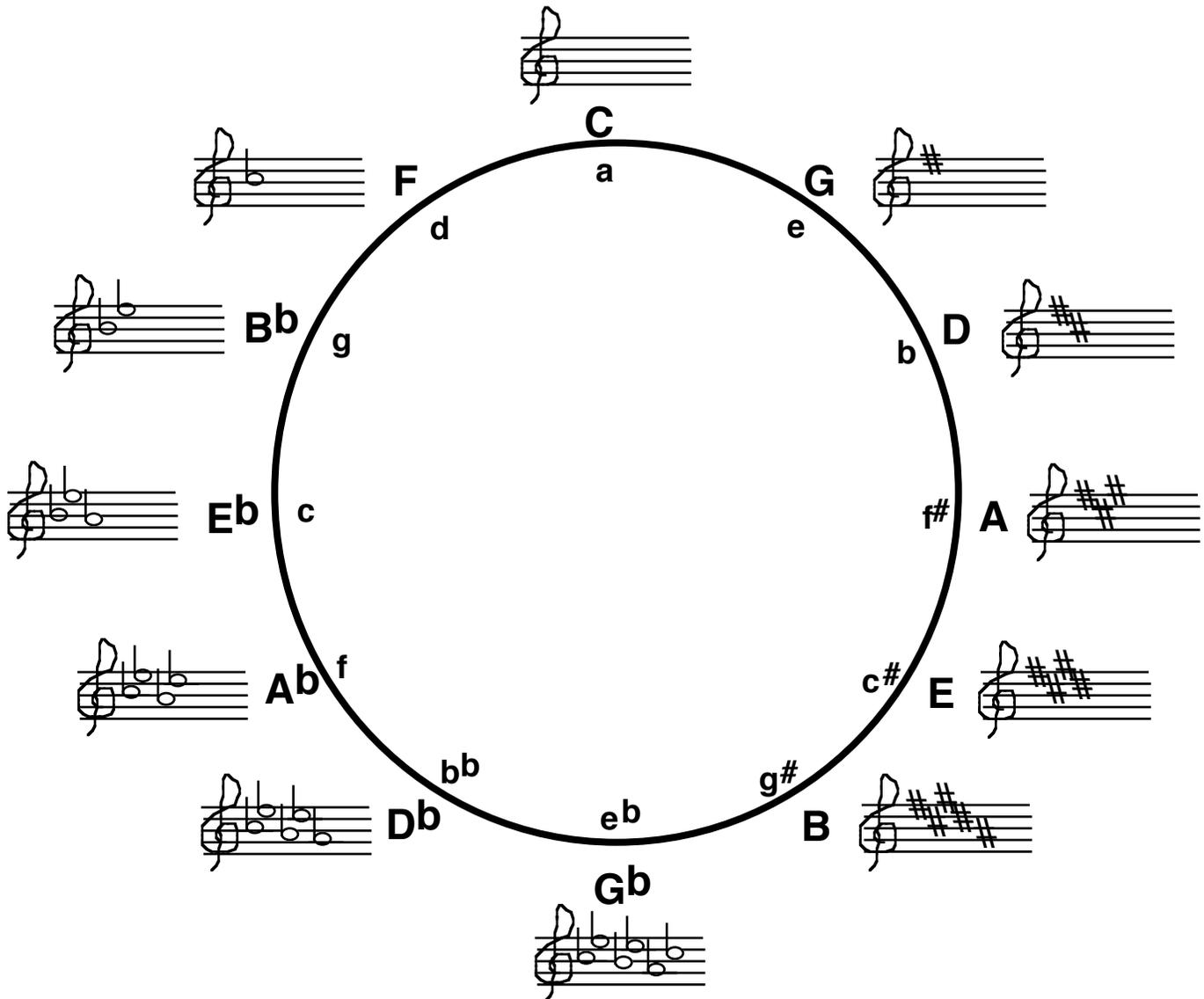
How convenient!!!

If you practice two scales per day, by lesson day, you will have practiced all twelve major scales. Logically, then you would be prepared to perform any scale asked during your scheduled time. I suggest the following pairing of a difficult and an easy scale:

DAY 1:	F MAJOR	B MAJOR
DAY 2:	Bb MAJOR	E MAJOR
DAY 3:	Eb MAJOR	A MAJOR
DAY 4:	Ab MAJOR	D MAJOR
DAY 5:	Db MAJOR	G MAJOR
DAY 6:	Gb MAJOR	C MAJOR

Circle of Fifths

Major Keys on outside of circle, in capital letters
Minor Keys on inside of circle in lower case letters



Every key signature describes two relative keys whose scales use the same notes, but which begin on different tonics. The capital letters on the outside of the circle show the Major key signatures and the lower case letters on the inside show the relative minor key signatures.