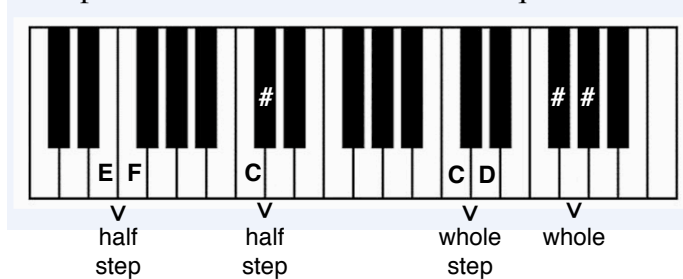


Beginning Piano Basics

from the studio of Barbara Cooper

Whole Steps & Half Steps

A half step is the distance between one note on the piano and the VERY NEXT CLOSEST note (i.e. C to C#). A whole step is the distance between notes equal to two half steps (i.e. C to D).



5 - Note Scales

↓ - whole step - ↓ - whole step - ↓ - half step - ↓ - whole step - ↓

5-note scales are great 5-finger patterns that develop flexibility, agility, and key familiarity. The pattern for the scales is easily identified by the whole-step/half-step pattern of the five successive white notes beginning with C.

C - whole step - D - whole step - E - half step - F - whole step - G

The image shows a C major scale written in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on middle C (C4) and goes up to G4. The bass clef starts on C3 and goes up to G3. The notes are: C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C in the treble; and C, B, A, G, F, E, D, C in the bass.

Continue by moving up a half step and forming a scale using that note as the beginning tone and following the whole step/half step pattern.

Use the 5-note scale pattern to write the next two 5-note scales.

↓ - whole step - ↓ - whole step - ↓ - half step - ↓ - whole step - ↓

The image shows a D major scale written in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on D4 and goes up to A4. The bass clef starts on D3 and goes up to A3. The notes are: D, E, F#, G, A, G, F#, E, D in the treble; and D, C, B, A, G, F#, E, D in the bass.

The image shows an E major scale written in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on E4 and goes up to B4. The bass clef starts on E3 and goes up to B3. The notes are: E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E in the treble; and E, D, C, B, A, G, F#, E in the bass.