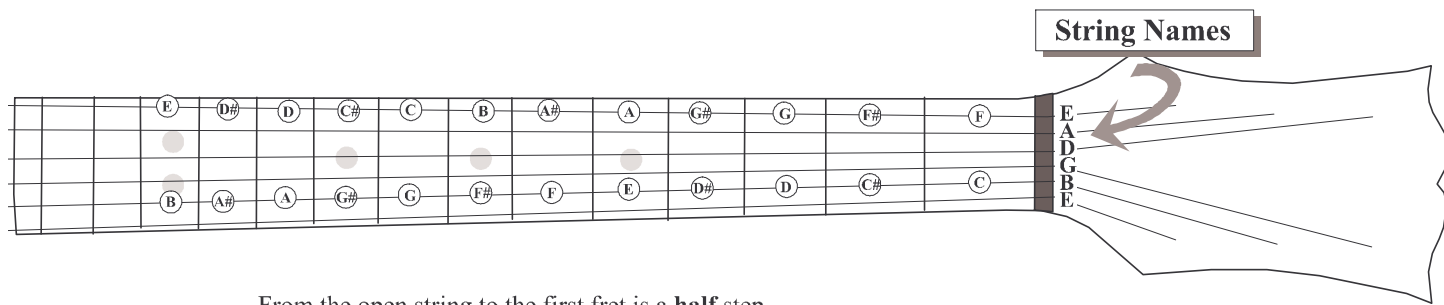
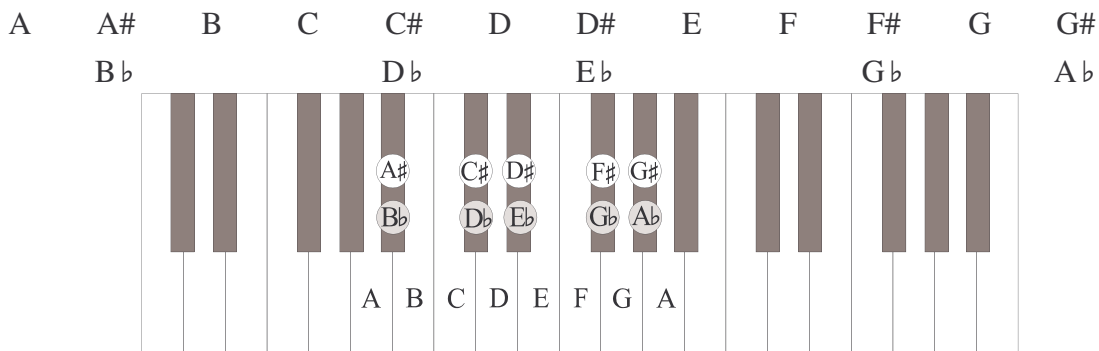


# Introduction to Chord Theory

## I. Notes

A. There are twelve (12) possible notes altogether



From the open string to the first fret is a **half** step.

From fret to fret is a **half** step.

Every 2 frets equal a **whole** step.

B. **Half Step** — from one note to the next consecutive note

1. A to A#
2. G<sup>b</sup> to G
3. B to C

C. **Whole Step** — two half steps

1. A to B
2. B to C#
3. D# to F

b = "flat" # = "sharp"	A# = B <sup>b</sup> C# = D <sup>b</sup> D# = E <sup>b</sup> F# = G <sup>b</sup> G# = A <sup>b</sup>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">12 Possible Notes</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">A - A# - B - C - C# - D - D# - E - F - F# - G - G# - A                  (B<sup>b</sup>)            (D<sup>b</sup>)            (E<sup>b</sup>)            (G<sup>b</sup>)            (A<sup>b</sup>)</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Half step</b> - from one note to the next                  (A to B<sup>b</sup>, B to C, F# to G)</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Whole step</b> - 2 half steps                  (A to B, B to C#, D<sup>b</sup> to E<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup> to C)</p>
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## II. Major Scale

A. A major scale consists of 8 basic notes and follows the pattern described:

1. There is a whole step between each note in the scale, *except between the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> where there is only a half step*
  - a. 1 - whole - 2 - whole - 3 - **half** - 4 - whole - 5 - whole - 6 - whole - 7 - **half** - 8
  - b. Or,

1	2	3	half step	4
5	6	7	half step	8

2. “DO - RE - MI - FA - SO - LA - TI - DO” — is the major scale
  - a. Any major scale in any “key” can be sung to “DO - RE - MI...”
3. 8<sup>th</sup> note is the same as the first note, one “octave” higher

B. Octave — [8]

C. Example:

1. C (Major Scale)

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

2. D (Major Scale)

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

3. F (Major Scale)

F	G	A	B $\flat$	C	D	E	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

4. Note: Every “letter” A through G represented in the major scale.

## Twelve Major Scales & Notes in a Major Chord

Major Scale	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A</b>								
<b>B<sup>b</sup></b>								
<b>B</b>								
<b>C</b>								
<b>D<sup>b</sup></b>								
<b>D</b>								
<b>E<sup>b</sup></b>								
<b>E</b>								
<b>F</b>								
<b>F<sup>#</sup></b>								
<b>G</b>								
<b>A<sup>b</sup></b>								
	<b>I</b>	<b>ii</b>	<b>iii</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>vi</b>	<b>vii(dim)</b>	

### III. Chords

#### A. Construction of **Major** Chords

1. The notes of a major chord are found by taking the notes numbered 1, 3, and 5 from its major scale.
2. Major Chord = 1-3-5
3. Examples:

##### a. C chord:

(1) C Major Scale

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

(2) C chord is made up of notes 1, 3, and 5, or **C, E, and G**

##### b. D chord:

(1) D Major Scale

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

(2) D chord = D-F#-A

##### c. F chord:

(1) F Major Scale

F	G	A	B $\flat$	C	D	E	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

(2) F chord = F-A-C

#### B. Major chords in a Major Scale/Key

1. The major chords in a major key are represented by the numbers 1, 4 and 5 of its key and are notated in Roman Numerals (I, IV, V).
2. Examples:

##### a. Major Chords in key of C

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

(1) I chord = C

(2) IV chord = F

(3) V chord = G

(4) The major chords in the key of C are C, F and G

b. Major Chords in key of D

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

(1) I chord = D

(2) IV chord = G

(3) V chord = A

(4) The major chords in the key of D are D, G and A

c. F (Major Scale)

F	G	A	B $\flat$	C	D	E	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

(1) I chord = F

(2) IV chord = B $\flat$

(3) V chord = C

(4) The major chords in the key of F are F, B $\flat$  and C

C. Construction of Minor chords

1. Minor chords are represented by this pattern = 1- $\flat$ 3-5

a. What are the notes in the Cm chord?

b. Dm?

c. Fm?

d. Remember to go back to the major scale.

2. Minor chords in a Major key are represented by the numbers 2, 3 and 6 and are written with Roman Numerals like this: II $\text{m}$ , III $\text{m}$ , and VI $\text{m}$ .

a. What are the minor chords in the key of C?

b. D?

c. F?

d. How would you construct those minor chords?

D. Chords and their Variations

Suffix	Chord Formula							Variations off the C chord						
	1	3	5					C	C	E	G			
(none)	1	3	5					C	C	E	G			
-2	1	2		5				C2	C	D		G		
-sus	1		4	5				Csus	C		F	G		
-6	1	3	5	6				C6	C	E	G	A		
-maj7	1	3	5	7				Cmaj7	C	E	G	B		
-7	1	3	5	b7				C7	C	E	G	B $\flat$		
-add9	1	3	5	9				Cadd9	C	E	G	D		
-maj9	1	3	5	7	9			Cmaj9	C	E	G	B	D	
-9	1	3	5	b7	9			C9	C	E	G	B $\flat$	D	
-maj11	1	3	5	7	9	11		Cmaj11	C	E	G	B	D	F
-11	1	3	5	b7	9	11		C11	C	E	G	B $\flat$	D	F
-m	1	b3	5					Cm	C	E $\flat$	G			
-m6	1	b3	5	6				Cm6	C	E $\flat$	G	A		
-m7	1	b3	5	b7				Cm7	C	E $\flat$	G	B $\flat$		
-aug	1	3	#5					Caug	C	E	G#			
-dim	1	b3	b5					Cdim	C	E $\flat$	G $\flat$			
-dim7	1	b3	b5	b $\flat$ 7				Cdim7	C	E $\flat$	G $\flat$	A		

