

C Major Scale and the Key of C

In order to figure out which 7 notes we need to extract from the **C Chromatic Scale** to derive the **C Major Scale**, we need a way to describe the *musical distance*, or **interval**, between two notes. We need to define what are known as **Half-steps** and **Whole-steps**.

A **Half-step**, or **semitone** in British English, is the distance from one note to the *very next note*, e. g., C to C#. The intervals in the Chromatic Scale are all Half-steps.

A **Whole-step**, or **tone**, is equal to two **Half-steps**, e. g., C to D.

Using these tools for measuring the distance between notes, there is a **FORMULA** that we can apply to any Chromatic Scale in order to derive the infinitely more useful Major Scale.

And here it comes, the Golden Rule, the absolute foundation of Western music:

Counting from the first note in *any* Chromatic Scale, travel from left to right:
2 Whole-steps 1 Half-step 3 Whole-steps 1 Half-step.

In short: *2 Wholes and a Half + 3 Wholes and a Half.*

When we apply this rule to the C Chromatic Scale, using natural and sharp notes, we derive the C Major Scale, and can now talk about the Key of C, where, as you C, there are only natural notes, and no sharps.....because we skip over them all:

