

The Major Scale

Music

One pattern of tones and semitones builds every major scale there is.

Every major scale is the same seven steps: whole whole half whole whole whole half.

W · W · H · W · W · W · H (W = 2 semitones, H = 1)

Starting on C

No sharps or flats — the white keys.

C D E F G A B C

Starting on G

The 7th must be raised to make the last step a half.

G A B C D E  F G

Starting on F

The 4th must be lowered.

F G A B  C D E F

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Counting frets or keys and forgetting the black ones**

✓ **Count semitones — every key, black and white**

E to F and B to C are already semitones. That is why the pattern lands where it does.

The natural minor is the same seven notes started from the sixth degree.