

## The Chromatic Scale (all half steps)

C C# D D# E F F# G G# A A# B C

OR:

C Db D Eb E F Gb G Ab A Bb B C

The image shows two musical staves. The first staff is for the C major chromatic scale, with notes C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B, C. The second staff is for the C minor chromatic scale, with notes C, Db, D, Eb, E, F, Gb, G, Ab, A, Bb, B, C. Both are written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and one flat (Cb).

## The Major Scale

The formula for the major scale is:

w w 1/2 w w w 1/2

C scale:

C D E F G A B C  
w w 1/2 w w w 1/2

The image shows a musical staff for the C major scale with notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The intervals between notes are indicated below the staff: w, w, 1/2, w, w, w, 1/2.

G scale:

G A B C D E F# G  
w w 1/2 w w w 1/2

The image shows a musical staff for the G major scale with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G. The intervals between notes are indicated below the staff: w, w, 1/2, w, w, w, 1/2.

D scale:

D E F# G A B C# D  
w w 1/2 w w w 1/2

The image shows a musical staff for the D major scale with notes D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D. The intervals between notes are indicated below the staff: w, w, 1/2, w, w, w, 1/2.

## Minor Scales

There are several minor scales, but bluegrass primarily uses two. The Aeolian minor scale, which can be derived from playing the major scale notes starting on the 6th note, often referred to as the 6th degree.

A minor (Aeolian Mode) built from the 6th degree of the C major scale

A B C D E F G A  
w 1/2 w w 1/2 w w

Also used, but less common than the Aeolian is the Dorian minor, which can be derived from playing the major scale notes start on the 2nd degree of the major scale.

D minor (Dorian mode) built from the 2nd degree of the C major scale

D E F G A B C D  
w 1/2 w w w 1/2 w