

General Musicianship and Studio Techniques

Week 1 - Notes and Time Signatures

www.musictheory.net

- **FREE** music theory resource
- Great range of theory lessons
- Exercises - test yourself

Lessons Exercises Tools **musictheory.net** Products News Contact

Our lessons are provided online for free. If they help you, please **purchase our apps** to support the site.

 **Theory Lessons** for iPhone and iPad
Enhanced offline versions of our animated lessons. [Learn more](#) ▶ [Buy](#) ▶

THE BASICS

-  **The Staff, Clefs, and Ledger Lines**
Learn about the staff, treble and bass clefs, and ledger lines.
-  **Note Duration**
Learn about five types of notes and how flags affect note duration.
-  **Measures and Time Signature**
Learn about measures and how many notes each can contain.
-  **Rest Duration**
Learn about the different types of rest.
-  **Dots and Ties**
Learn how dots and ties modify the duration of notes.
-  **Steps and Accidentals**
Learn about half steps, whole steps, and the different types of accidentals.

RHYTHM AND METER

-  **Simple and Compound Meter**
Learn how basic time signatures are classified.
-  **Odd Meter**
Learn about more complex time signatures.

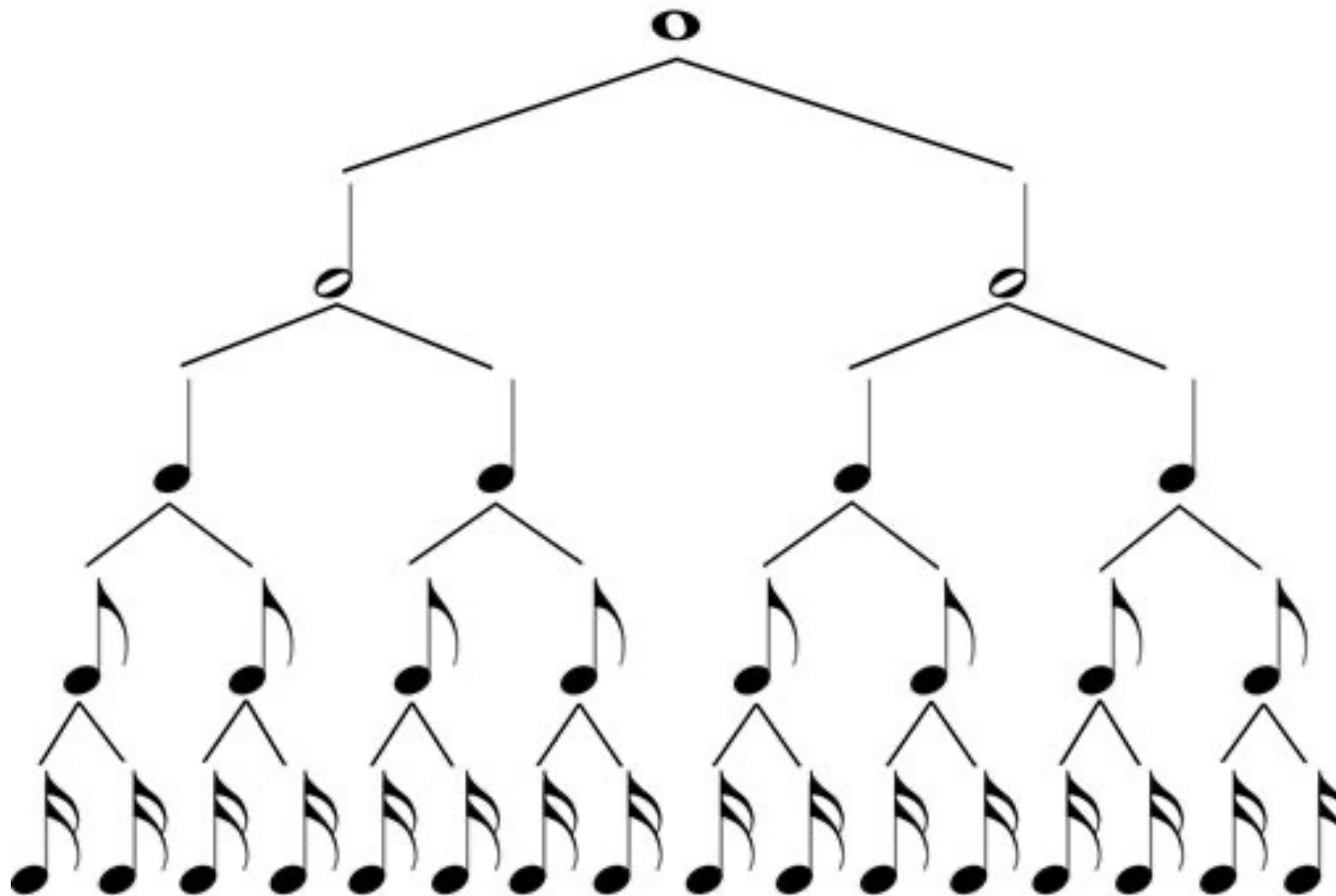
SCALES AND KEY SIGNATURES

-  **The Major Scale**
Learn how to construct the major scale.
-  **The Minor Scales**
Learn how to construct the three different types of minor scales.

Note Values - Summary

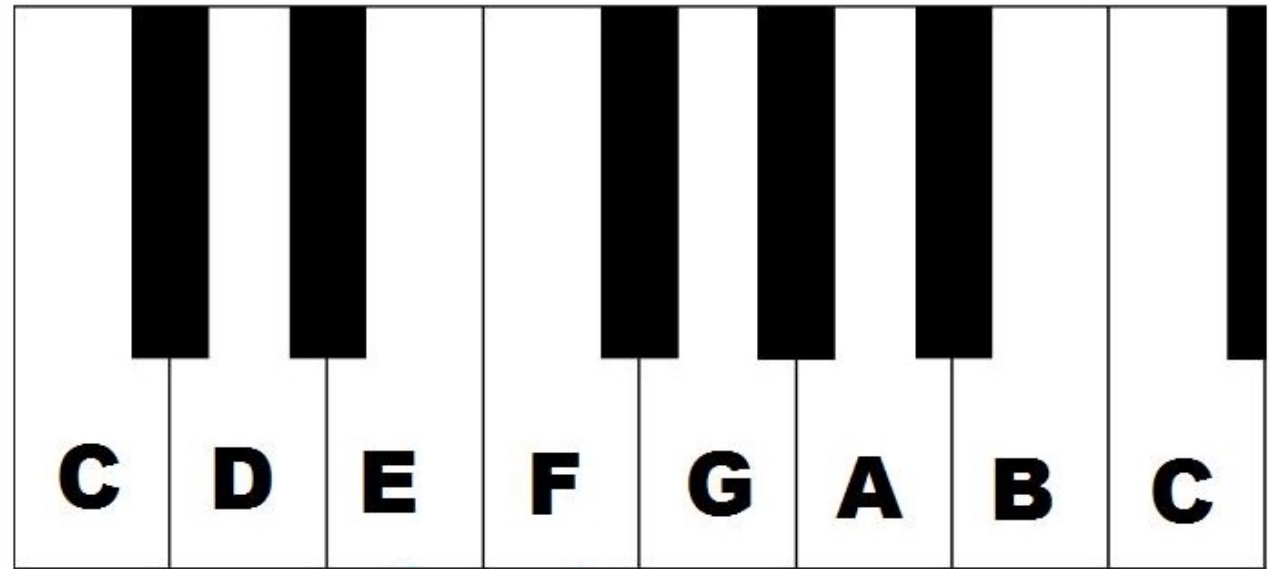
Notes	Name		Value
	Semibreve	Whole note	4 beats
	Minim	Half note	2 beats
	Crotchet	Quarter note	1 beat
	Quaver	Eighth note	$\frac{1}{2}$ beat
	Semi-quaver	Sixteenth note	$\frac{1}{4}$ beat

Note Values



Building the major scale

Tones and Semitones in a Major Scale



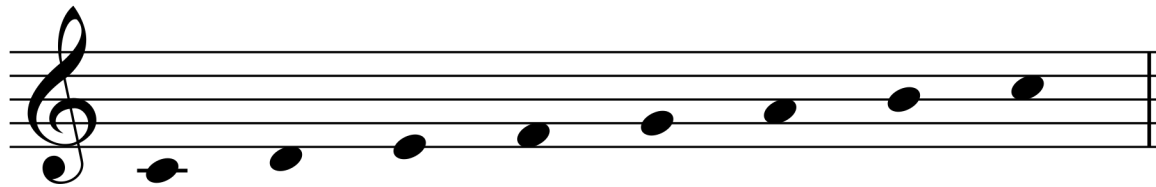
T T S T T T S

Tone - Tone - Semitone - Tone - Tone - Tone - Semitone

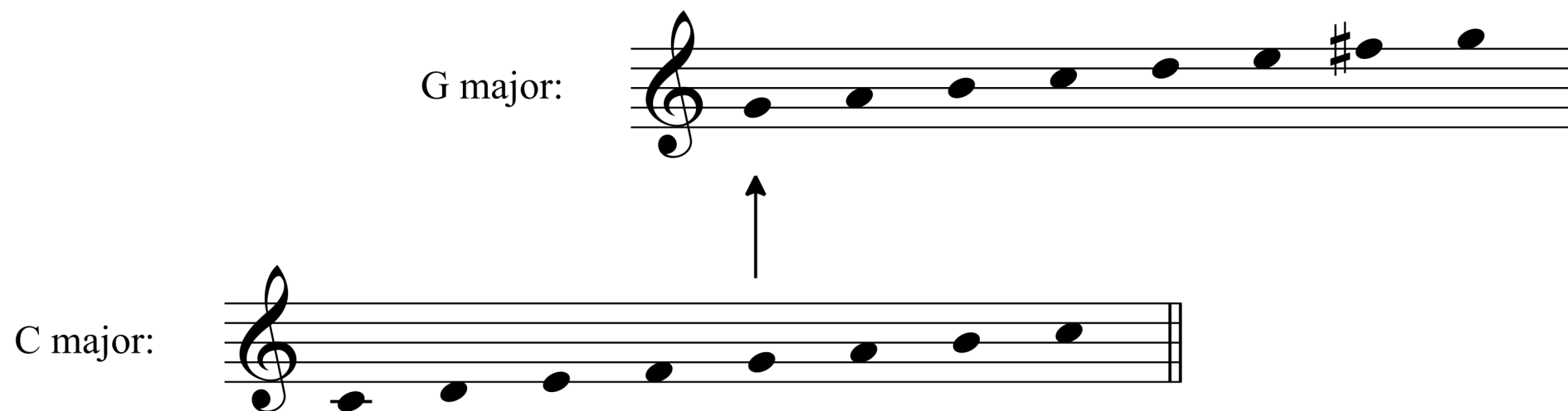
American terminology - Whole Step and Half Step

Replace T with W and S with H

C major:



C major - example



G major - example

C major:

G major:

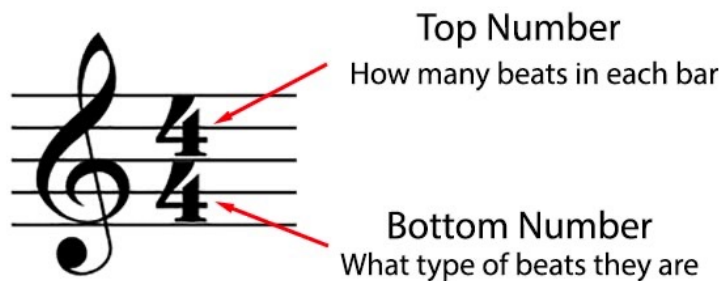
D major:

The image displays three musical staves in treble clef, each representing a major scale. The bottom staff is labeled 'C major:' and contains the C major scale (C4 to C5) with no sharps or flats. An upward-pointing arrow connects the C major scale to the middle staff, which is labeled 'G major:'. The G major scale (G4 to G5) is shown with one sharp (F#). Another upward-pointing arrow connects the G major scale to the top staff, which is labeled 'D major:'. The D major scale (D4 to D5) is shown with two sharps (F# and C#). This diagram illustrates how the D major scale is constructed by adding a second sharp to the G major scale.

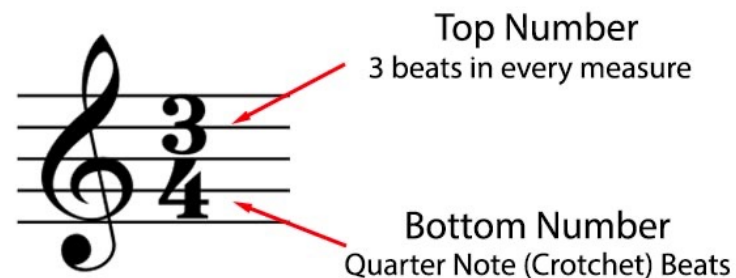
D major - example

Time Signatures

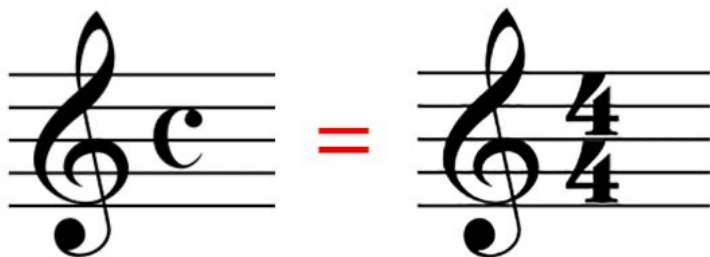
Time Signature



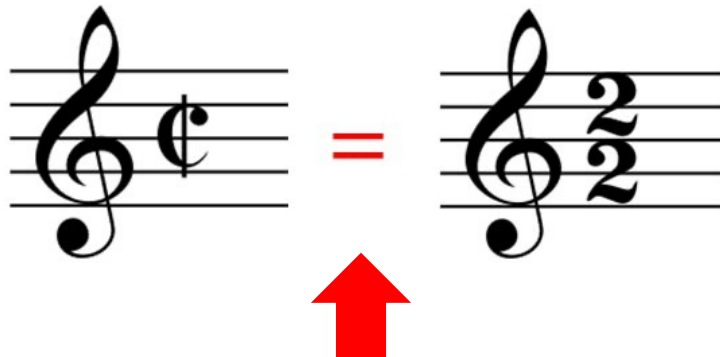
3/4 Time Signature



Common Time



alla breve



2/4 Time Signature



More commonly known as half-common time

Simple Duple



Duple = 2 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Simple Duple Meter
(Simple Duple Time)

Simple Duple



Duple = 2 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Simple Duple Meter (Simple Duple Time)



Duple = 2 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Simple Duple

Simple Duple Meter (Simple Duple Time)



Duple = 2 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2



Duple = 2 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2



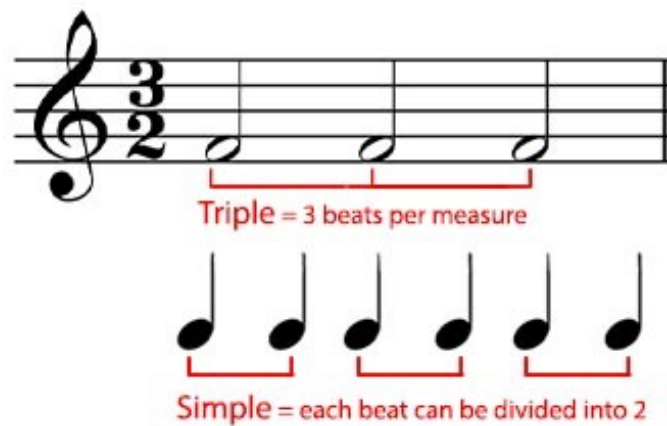
Duple = 2 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Simple Triple

Simple Triple Meter (Simple Triple Time)



Simple Triple



Triple = 3 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Simple Triple Meter (Simple Triple Time)



Triple = 3 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Simple Triple

Simple Triple Meter (Simple Triple Time)



Triple = 3 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2



Triple = 3 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2



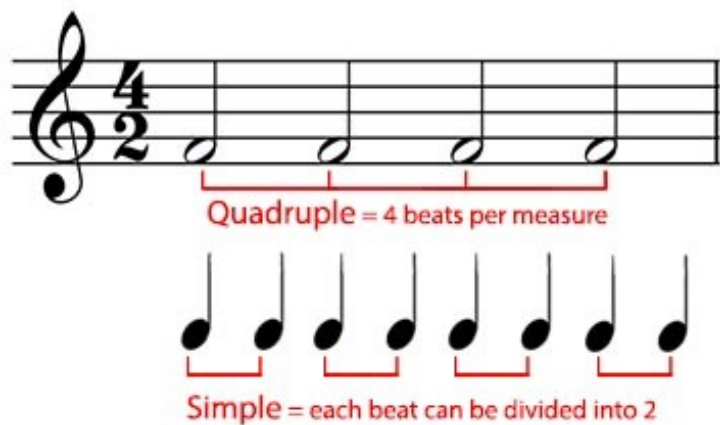
Triple = 3 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Simple Quadruple

Simple Quadruple Meter (Simple Quadruple Time)

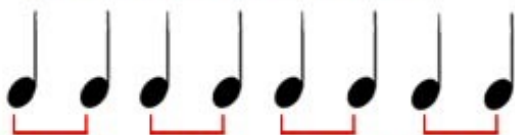


Simple Quadruple

Simple Quadruple Meter (Simple Quadruple Time)



Quadruple = 4 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2



Quadruple = 4 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Simple Quadruple

Simple Quadruple Meter (Simple Quadruple Time)



Quadruple = 4 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2



Quadruple = 4 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2



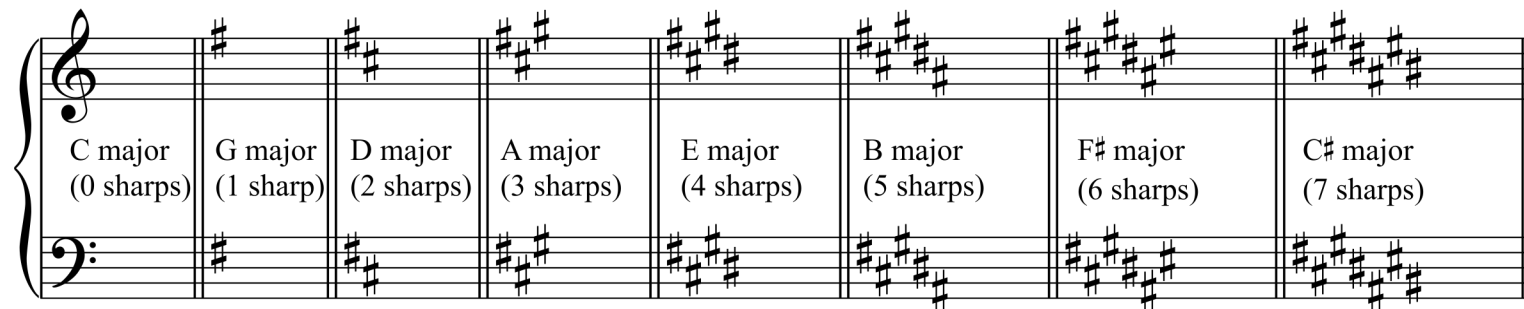
Quadruple = 4 beats per measure



Simple = each beat can be divided into 2

Key Signatures

#'s



Mnemonics for order of #'s

Father - 1st #

Charles - 2nd #

Goes - 3rd #

Down - 4th #

And - 5th #

Ends - 6th #

Battle - 7th #

Father - 1st #

Christmas - 2nd #

Gave - 3rd #

Dad - 4th #

An - 5th #

Electric - 6th #

Blanket - 7th #