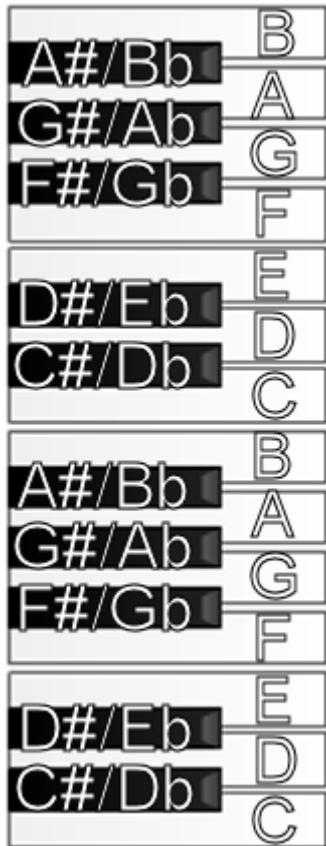


# WHOLE STEPS and HALF STEPS

by Stacy Kastner



Moving up a note from C to D is called going up a “**whole step**”. Moving down from D to C is called going down a “whole step”.

However, a note halfway between the C and the D also exists.

To raise or lower a note only halfway to the next note, we use a symbol called an **accidental**.

The **sharp** (#) symbol is the accidental which raises a note one **half-step**.

The **flat** symbol (b) is the accidental which lowers a note one half-step.

For example, to raise C halfway to D, we would play the note called C-sharp (C#).

To lower D halfway down to C, we would play the note called D-flat (Db).

Notice that the note halfway between the C and the D has two names: C# and Db. When two different names result in the same note, these notes are called **enharmonic equivalents**.

Going up or down a whole step is always equal to going up or down two consecutive half-steps. For example, to go down a whole-step from D#, you would go down a half-step to D and then down another half-step to end up on C#.

An important thing to remember is that E to F, and also B to C, is already only a half-step. There is no note halfway in between these notes.

## SCALES

A **scale** is a series of notes in a row, determined by a special order of whole steps and half-steps.

The **chromatic scale** begins on a note and continues by half-steps up or down.

The ascending **major scale** begins on a note, and continues up a Whole step, then another Whole step, and then a half-step. Another Whole step, Whole step, Whole step, and half-step complete the ascending scale.

Other types of scales include the **whole-tone scale** (constructed of consecutive whole steps), and the **diminished scale** (constructed of alternating whole steps and half-steps). The **modal scales** and **minor scales** are generally derived from the major scale.

# WHOLE STEPS, HALF-STEPS, AND SCALES QUIZ

4 points each

Write the note one whole-step up from the following notes:

1. A \_\_\_
2. F \_\_\_
3. E \_\_\_
4. F# \_\_\_

Write the note one whole-step down from the following notes:

5. G \_\_\_
6. D \_\_\_
7. C \_\_\_
8. Bb \_\_\_

Write the note one half-step up from the following notes:

9. D \_\_\_
10. F# \_\_\_
11. B \_\_\_
12. Ab \_\_\_

Write the note one half-step down from the following notes:

13. E \_\_\_
14. G# \_\_\_
15. F \_\_\_
16. Db \_\_\_

Write the note that is the enharmonic equivalent of the following notes:

17. F# \_\_\_
18. Bb \_\_\_
19. C# \_\_\_
20. Fb \_\_\_

21. The notes of the minor and modal scales are generally derived from what other scale? \_\_\_\_\_

22. What is one example of an accidental? \_\_\_\_\_

23. Please write the notes of the ascending Ab major scale. Please use flats instead of sharps when necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_

24. Please write the notes of the ascending Ab chromatic scale. You may use flats or sharps when necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_

25. What note, would you guess, is the enharmonic equivalent of G double-flat (Gbb)? \_\_\_\_

**Extra credit** (10 points): Write the notes of either the descending Ab whole-tone scale or the descending Ab diminished scale. You may use flats or sharps when necessary.

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