

# SCALE

A Scale is a group of Notes selected from the set of 12 notes. The word Scale appeared from the Latin word 'Scala' meaning ladder. So just like a ladder, scale is a series or steps of notes that can be taken in ascending and decending order. In music, playing a scale means playing a series of notes, one at a time.

There are a plethora of scales having their own unique tonality, expression, fixed number of notes or size, interval definitions. A scale can be pentatonic, hexatonic, septatonic/heptatonic as per the number of notes used in it. It can be major or minor as per their interval definition, few scales examples are major, minor, blues, jazz, exotic, raga etc. They also have further categorization like mood or feeling, playing style or approach etc.

The first significant scale is 'C major scale'. This scale is also known as the mother of all music scales. The definition of C scale is:

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
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The Major scale has a fixed standard formula that defines the distance between each note at every step or degree. The standard formula for constructing a major scale can be applied on any key. As we know that in piano or keyboard each key is equal to half step. So major scale can be formed by keeping the fixed distance between notes. The scale formula is :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C

|            |            |            |            |            |            |

**W          W          H          W          W          W          H**

Where **W** is Whole Note/ 1 step.

And **H** is Half Note/ half step.

Similarly we can construct all 12 scales on our own using the same formula. As scales are the building blocks of music study, we will keep working on them, while constructing chords as well; scale concept needs to be clearly understood in the mind.

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In order to construct a major scale from any tonic or root, we must follow the major scale formula from that note, making it as the first note of the scale.

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