

Section 1 - Scales



The Major Scale

Blue bar in margin indicating important, basic, academic information

Video teaching this concept

The **Major scale** is one of the most common scales in use today. It has been used as a basis for composition since approximately 1600 AD. Scales were originally called modes. Only two modes remain in common usage. The Ionian mode (now known as the **Major scale**) and the Aeolian mode (now known as the **natural minor scale**).

Violet bar in margin indicating additional, relevant information.

Clear, concise academic information and explanations.

Notes in a scale can be labelled in many ways.



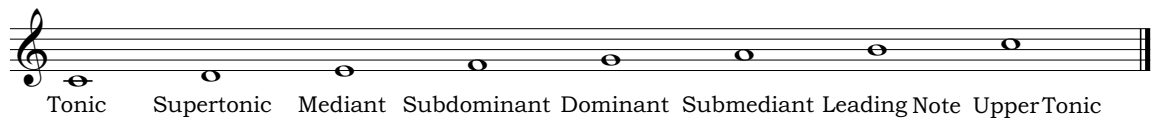
C Major in Scale Degrees

Examples designed for students to sing – helping to cement their understanding of the new concepts.

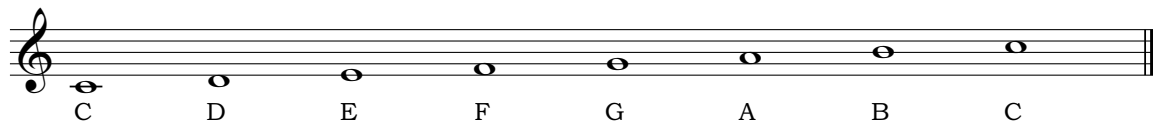
Worksheet consolidating new knowledge



C Major in Tonal or Functional Names



C Major in Letter Names



Tonic or Movable *do* Solfa

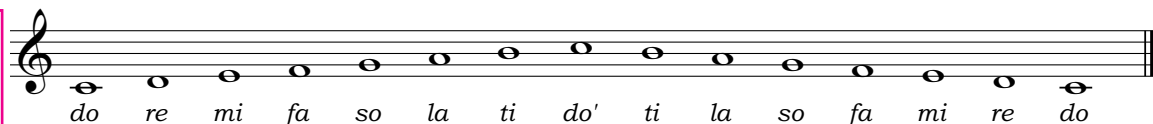
We can use a **functional note naming system** such as **tonic solfa** (designed specifically for singing), where the tonic note of a Major scale is always *do*.

Click on the associated information sheet icon: in the left margin, for more tonic solfa information.

Tone ladders and keyboards give a visual representation of concepts.



C Major in Solfa



Information sheet with additional information about concepts taught

mi

re

do

Handsigns

Each solfa note name has a matching handsign. Solfa handsigns are used to physically show the pitch of the notes in the air. *do* should be placed in front of your stomach and the others are each placed a little higher to show the melodic shape.

See Appendix 1, page 213, for solfa handsigns.

do'

ti

la


so


fa

mi

re


do

All the musical examples given so far have used the **treble** or G clef. This is a sign placed at the start of a piece of music, showing that the music is written for treble (high) voices or instruments. It is called the G clef as it curls around the line where the note G would be. 

This next C Major scale is written out in the **bass** or F clef. This is the sign showing that the music is written for bass (low) voices or instruments. It is called the F clef as the two dots are placed on either side of the line where the note F would be. 



C Major in the Bass Clef

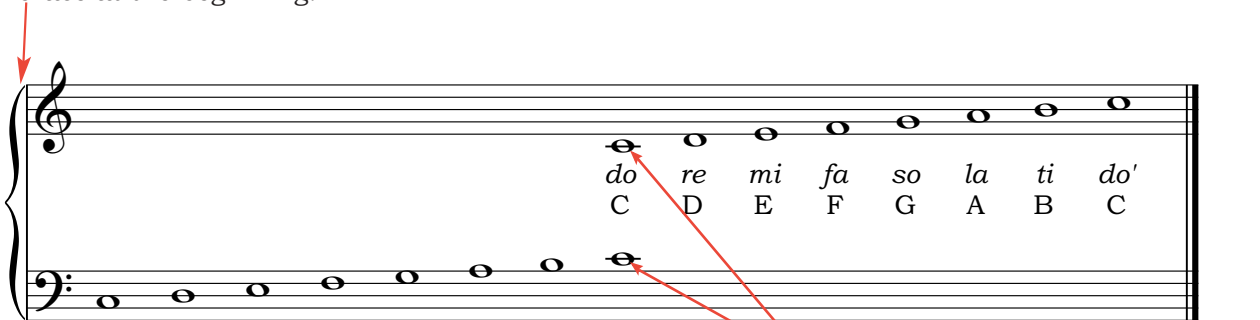


do re mi fa so la ti do' ti la so fa mi re do
C D E F G A B C B A G F E D C



The Grand Staff

The **Grand Staff** usually consists of a treble staff and a bass staff connected by a brace at the beginning.



do re mi fa so la ti do'
C D E F G A B C

do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do
C D E F G A B C

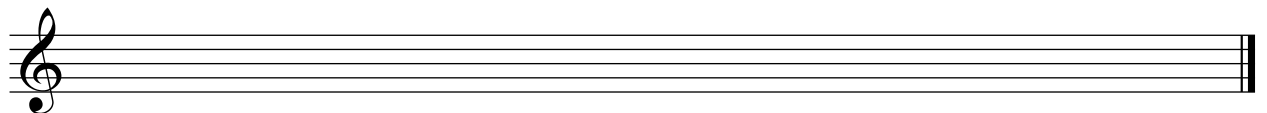
These two notes look like they are a long way apart when in reality they are the same note.

We use an **apostrophe** (do') to indicate that a solfa note is in an upper octave. Similarly a **comma** (do,) beside a note's name indicates it is in a lower octave. Notice that solfa names are written in **lowercase** (usually in italics) and letter names are written in **UPPERCASE**.

Worksheet 2

S1 Scales 1 Using semibreves in the treble clef, write one octave (i.e. from middle C up to the next C), ascending and descending, of C Major.

Worksheet with theory and aural transcription exercises



S1 Scales 2 Write the letter names beneath the given C Major scale.

