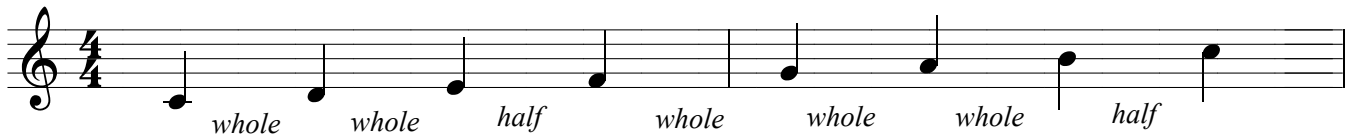


# INTRODUCTION TO SCALES

The smallest part in pitch in most western music is called a half step. Just like in math, two halves equal a whole. If you look at a piano, you will notice a pattern of white keys and black keys. If you start anywhere on the piano and play each key in succession, you will be playing half steps. If you look at the neck of a guitar, you will see raised metal bumps called frets. If you stay on the same string and put your finger on a space between frets and pluck the string, then continue from the neck toward the body of the guitar, one fret at a time, you will be playing half steps. Most scales are made up of a combination of whole steps and half steps. Most scales are called diatonic.

DIA = two. TONIC = tone or sound. Thus we have two-tone. Some refer to a whole step as a whole tone and a half step as a semi-tone. The word SCALE comes from scala which means step. You can find the word scala in use today in the word "escalator".

## MAJOR SCALE (whole steps and half steps) 8 NOTES



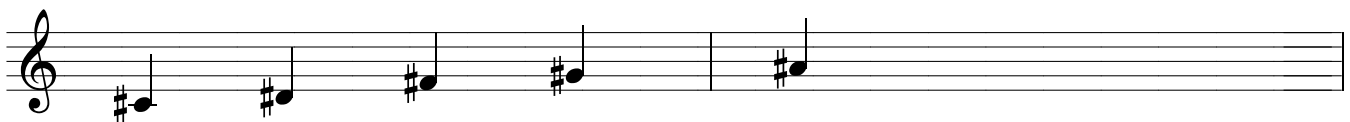
**Half steps naturally fall between the third and fourth scale degrees and between the seventh and eighth scale degrees of major scales.**

## CHROMATIC SCALE (all half steps) 13 NOTES



**Notice there are five sharps ( # ) next to five notes (There are series of five black keys on a piano in repeating patterns of twos and threes).**

**Here are the five notes which are left out of the C Major Scale:**





Major Scale

Natural Minor Scale (Aeolian Mode is Identical)



Major Scale

Melodic Minor Scale



Major Scale

Phrygian Mode



Major Scale

Locrian Mode

