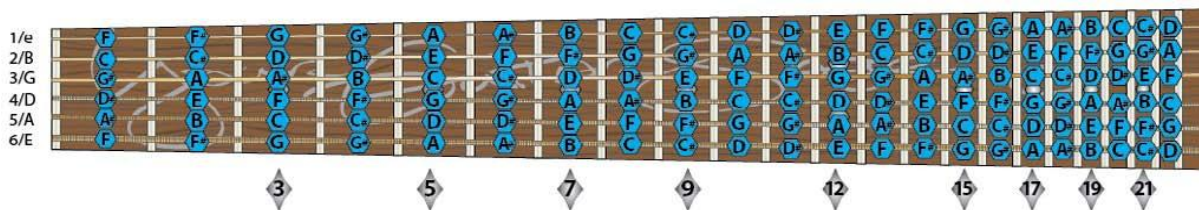


Diatonic Harmony

- The musical alphabet goes from A to G (there is no “H, I, J”, etc.)
- A half-step is the distance between 1 fret and the next on a guitar
- A whole step is equal to 2 half-steps or 2 frets distance
- A sharp (#) is when we raise a pitch by a half-step
- A flat (b) is when we lower a pitch by a half-step
- Every note has a sharp, except for **B** and **E**

So, the musical alphabet reads like this A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#...

... and all the notes on a 23 fret board look like this...



So, if W = whole step and H = half-step, then: Major Scale = W W H W W W H

Scale steps: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (or 1)

Distance between notes: W W H W W W H

Have you ever heard the vocal exercise, “Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do”? Those are the musical steps for the major scale. Or the “Do Re Mi” song Julie Andrews sings in “The Sound of Music?” That song is based on the steps of the major scale. It is VERY important to learn the major scale if you want a good foundation for learning everything else on the guitar. It is the basis of music theory, the field of study that deals with the mechanics of music and how music works.

Definitions To Know

Interval – The pitch distance between 2 notes.

Chords – 3 or more notes played together.

Arpeggio – “broken” chord, or notes from a chord played apart from each other.

Major Chord – 1st, 3rd and 5th scale steps (notes from the Major scale: 1, 3, 5).

Minor Chord – 1st, flat 3rd and 5th scale steps (notes) from the Major scale: 1, b3, 5.