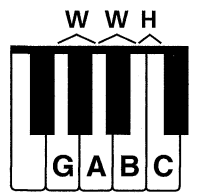
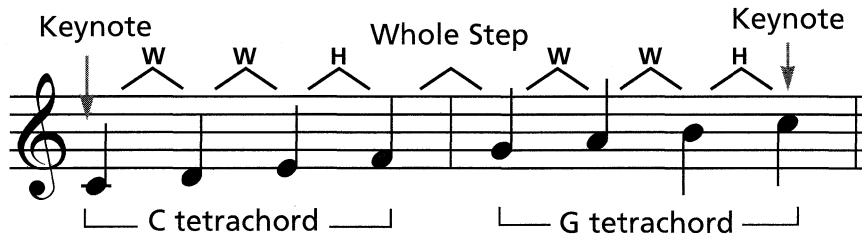


## Tetrachords and Major Scales

The word TETRA means four. A TETRACHORD is a series of four notes having a pattern of whole step, whole step, half step. The four notes of a tetrachord must be in alphabetical order.



C Major Scale



The MAJOR SCALE consists of eight notes—two tetrachords joined by a whole step.

Each scale begins and ends on a note of the same name, called the KEYNOTE.

A scale can begin on any note.

The tones of a scale are also called the DEGREES (or steps) of the scale.

There are eight degrees in a major scale:

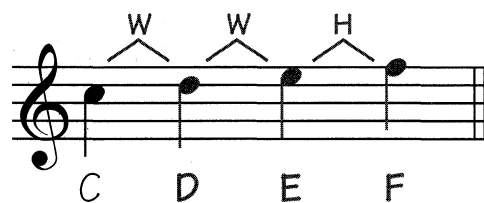
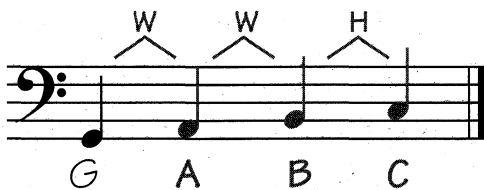


In all major scales, half steps occur between the 3rd and 4th and the 7th and 8th scale degrees.

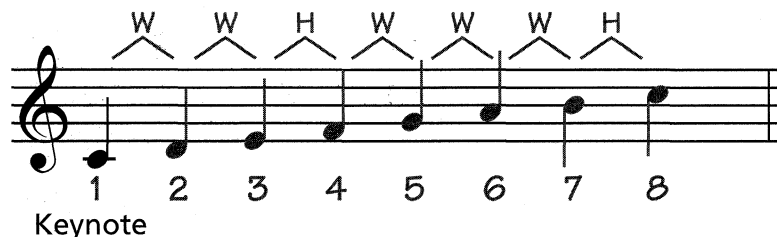
The distances between all other scale degrees are whole steps.

## Exercises

- 1** Write tetrachords starting on the following notes, then add the note names under the staff. The notes must be in alphabetical order. Write where the whole (W) and half (H) steps occur above the staff.



- 2** Write a C major scale. Add the scale degrees under each note and indicate where the whole and half steps occur above the staff.

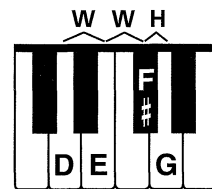
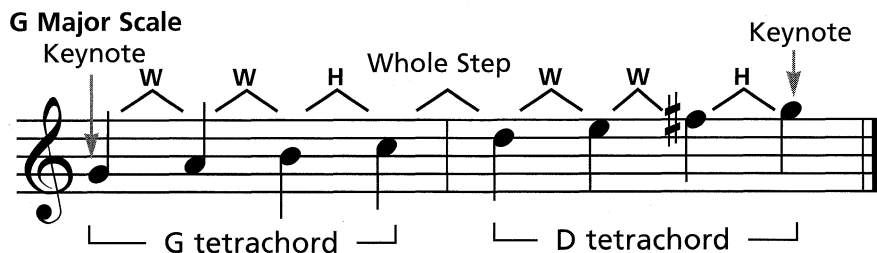
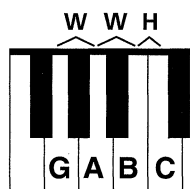


- 3** Write whether the distance between each note is a whole step (W) or half step (H).



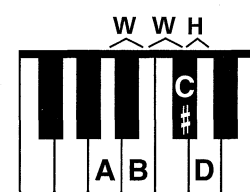
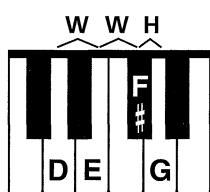
## The Sharp Scales — G and D Major

Using the same pattern for tetrachords of whole step, whole step, half step, you can build the sharp scale of G major with the G and D tetrachords. G is the 2nd tetrachord of the C major scale.



The F must be raised to F# to create a whole step.  
An F# is used instead of Gb to stay in alphabetical order.

Using the same pattern for tetrachords, you can build the sharp scale of D major with the D and A tetrachords. D is the 2nd tetrachord of the G major scale.



The C must be raised to C# to create a whole step.  
A C# is used instead of Db to stay in alphabetical order.

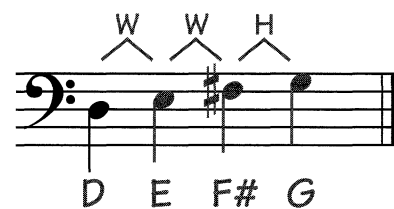
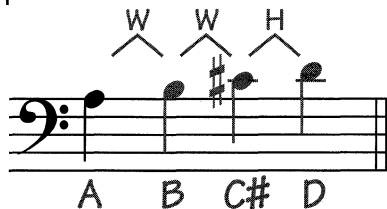
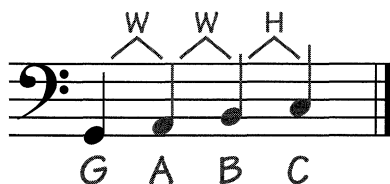
### Important!

- The 2nd tetrachord of the C major scale is the 1st tetrachord of the G major scale.
- The 2nd tetrachord of the G major scale is the 1st tetrachord of the D major scale.

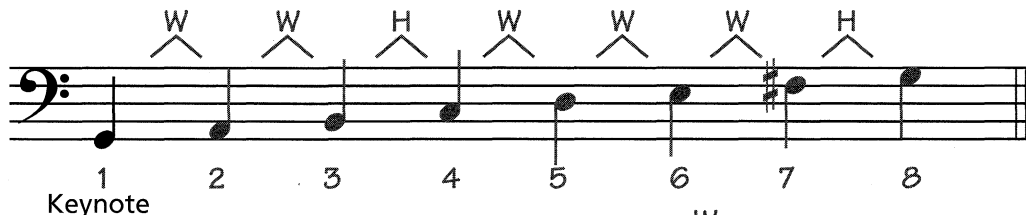
Starting with the C major scale, the 2nd tetrachord is always the 1st tetrachord of the following sharp scale. This overlapping pattern continues through all the major sharp scales.

## Exercises

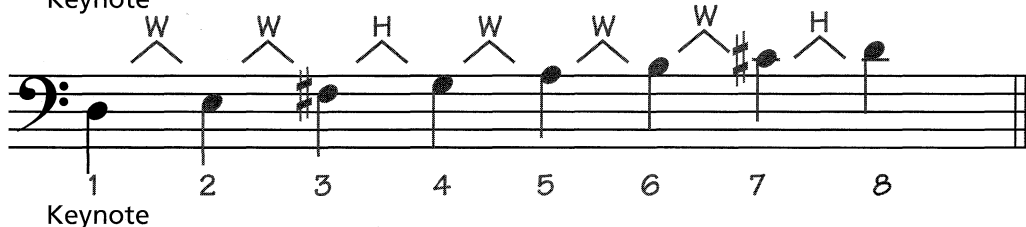
- Write tetrachords starting on the following notes, then add the note names below the staff. The notes must be in alphabetical order. Remember to include the necessary accidentals. Write where the whole and half steps occur above the staff.



- Write a G major scale. Add the scale degrees and indicate where the whole and half steps occur.

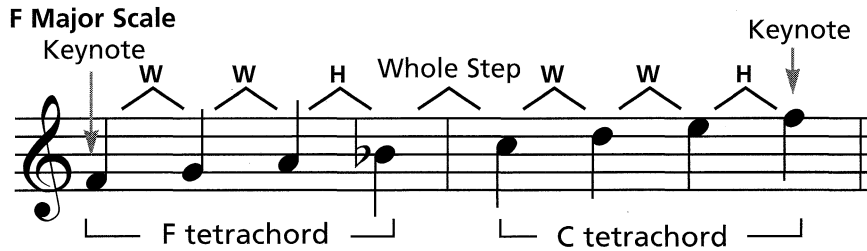
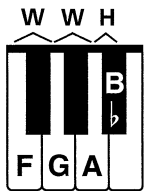


- Write a D major scale. Add the scale degrees and indicate where the whole and half steps occur.



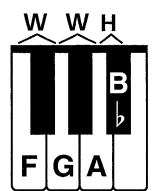
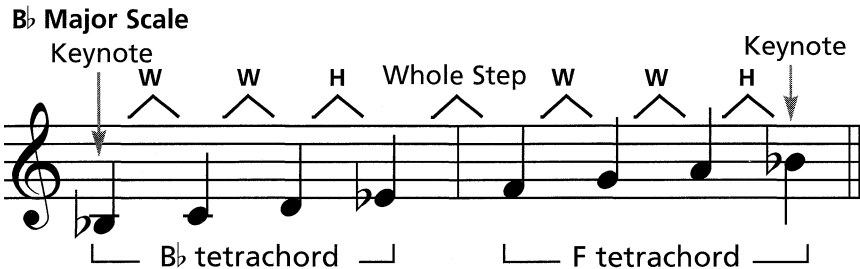
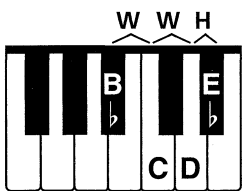
# The Flat Scales — F and B $\flat$ Major

Using the same pattern for tetrachords, you can build the flat scale of F major with the F and C tetrachords. C is the 1st tetrachord of the C major scale.



The B must be lowered to B $\flat$  to create a half step.  
A B $\flat$  is used instead of A $\sharp$  to stay in alphabetical order.

Using the same pattern for tetrachords, you can build the flat scale of B $\flat$  major with the B $\flat$  and F tetrachords. F is the 1st tetrachord of the F major scale.



The E must be lowered to E $\flat$  to create a half step.  
An E $\flat$  is used instead of D $\sharp$  to stay in alphabetical order.

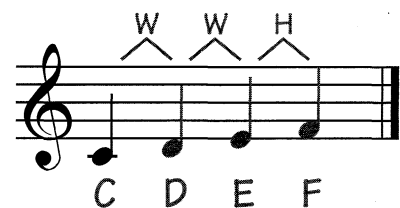
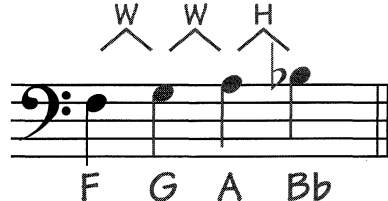
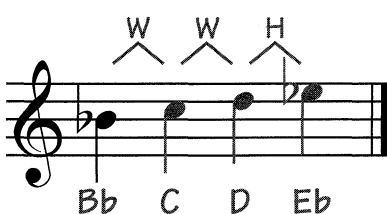
## Important!

- The 4th scale degree of the C major scale (F) is the 1st scale degree of the F major scale.
- The 4th scale degree of the F major scale (B $\flat$ ) is the 1st scale degree of the B $\flat$  major scale.

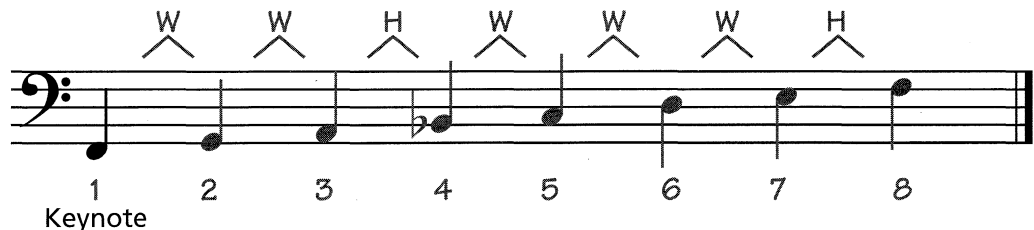
Starting with the C major scale, the 4th scale degree is always the 1st scale degree (keynote) of the following flat scale. This pattern continues through all the major flat scales.

## Exercises

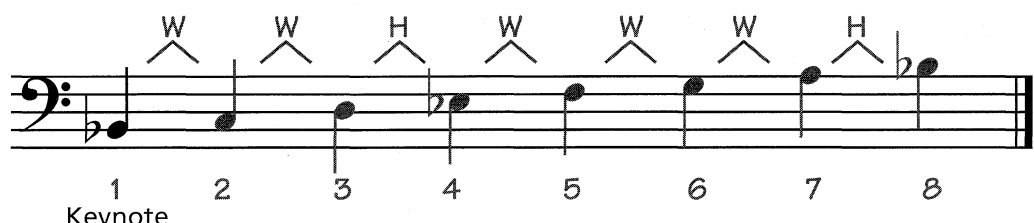
- Write tetrachords starting on the following notes, then add the notes names below the staff. The notes must be in alphabetical order. Remember to include the necessary accidentals. Write where the whole and half steps occur above the staff.



- Write an F major scale. Add the scale degrees and indicate where the whole and half steps occur.



- Write a B $\flat$  major scale. Add the scale degrees and indicate where the whole and half steps occur.



## Key Signatures — The Sharp Keys

When writing the scales on page 44, you added sharp signs before the appropriate notes.

In the **G** scale, you added a sharp sign before each F; in the **D** scale, you added sharp signs before each F and C.

To make writing and reading music easier, you can place all of the sharps used in a scale or piece immediately after the clef sign. This is called the **KEY SIGNATURE**. It indicates the notes that will be sharpened each time they appear for the *entire* piece.



In this case, any F will always be played sharp (unless there is a natural sign before the F).

Sharps written in the key signature always appear in a specific order. Here are the sharp key signatures of the scales you know:

Key of G — 1 sharp:

F#



Key of D — 2 sharps:

F#, C#



The order of sharps in the key signature for up to two sharps is **F C**.

### Important!

To figure out the name of a major key from the key signature, go up a half step from the last sharp. As an example: a key signature of F# would be the key of G major; a key signature of F# and C# would be the key of D major.

## Exercises

- 1** Write the order of the first two sharps in a key signature.

F#

C#

- 2** If C# is the last sharp in the key signature, the major key name would be D.

- 3** Name the following major key signatures.



a. G

b. D

c. D

d. G

- 4** Write the following major key signatures.



a. D major

b. G major

c. G major

d. D major

## Key Signatures — The Flat Keys

When writing the scales on page 45, you added flat signs before the appropriate notes.

In the F scale, you added a flat sign before each B; in the B $\flat$  scale, you added flat signs before each B and E.

Just like sharp signs, you can place all of the flats used in a scale or piece in the **KEY SIGNATURE**. It indicates the notes that will be flatted each time they appear for the *entire* piece.



In this case, any B will always be played flat (unless there is a natural sign before the B).

Flats written in the key signature always appear in a specific order. Here are the flat key signatures of the scales you know:

Key of F — 1 flat:

B $\flat$



Key of B $\flat$  — 2 flats:

B $\flat$ , E $\flat$



The order of flats in the key signature for up to two flats is **B E**.

### Important!

To figure out the name of a major key from the key signature, remember that one flat is the key of F; for two or more flats, the next-to-last flat is the name of the key. As an example, a key signature of B $\flat$  and E $\flat$  would be the key of B $\flat$  major.

## Exercises

- 1** Write the order of the first two flats in a key signature.

B $\flat$

E $\flat$

- 2** If B $\flat$  is the next-to-last flat in the key signature, the major key name would be B $\flat$ .

- 3** Name the following major key signatures.



a. B $\flat$

b. F

c. F

d. B $\flat$

- 4** Write the following major key signatures.



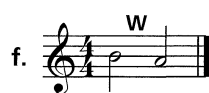
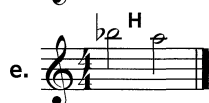
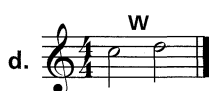
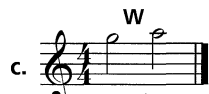
a. F major

b. B $\flat$  major

c. B $\flat$  major

d. F major

## Examples:



Page 48 from the Student Book:

48

## UNIT 7

## EAR TRAINING FOR LESSONS 26-30

Track 36\*

- 1** Listen to the following succession of two notes each. Indicate whether the distance between the two notes is a whole step (W) or half step (H). Each example will be played twice.

a. H    b. H    c. W    d. W    e. H    f. W

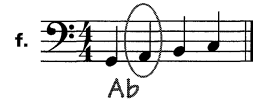
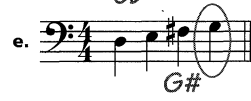
Track 37

- 2** Listen to the four-note tetrachord patterns. Draw the missing notes in the boxes.



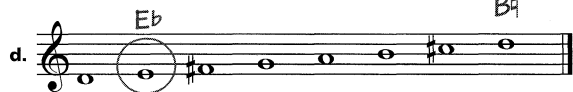
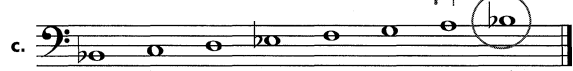
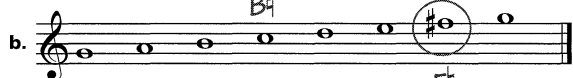
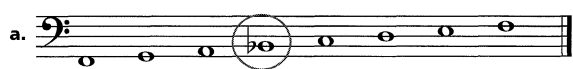
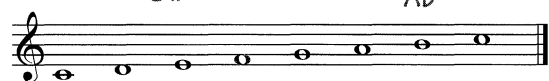
Track 38

- 3** Listen to the four-note tetrachord patterns. One note in each tetrachord will be played incorrectly. Circle the incorrect note.



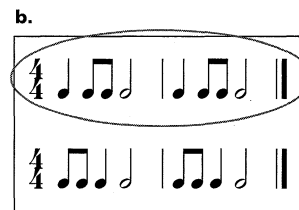
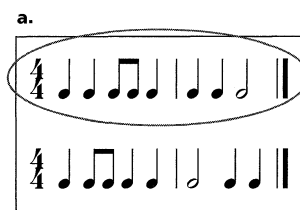
Track 39

- 4** Listen to a C major scale. In each of the following scales, one note will be played incorrectly. Circle the incorrect note.



Track 40

- 5** Listen to the G major scale. Circle the rhythm pattern that you hear for each example.



\*Track 36 refers to the track number on Ear Training CD 1.

