Email.. nickmzerah@gmail.com

Number +254713399413

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INTRODUCTION TO PIANO

Piano is a musical instrument on which different notes can be sounded by pressing a series of keys.

- It's made of Black and White notes
- The Black notes are arranged in pattern of two's and three's
- In piano the most important thing is the scale, notes and chords

    N/B: *Notes create scale, scales create chords, chords create patterns, patterns create music that we hear everyday*

NOTES

- These are symbols representing musical sounds
- These notes include White and Black notes

    N/B: the *distance interval from one note to the immediate next note is always a half a tone / semi tone*

NAMING OF NOTES

Piano notes are named using the first seven letters of the alphabet that is ie ;A B C D E F G

The White note that is before the set of two black keys is called **C**

The White note that is after the set of two black keys is called The White note before the set of three Black keys is called **F**

The White note after the set of three Black keys is called **B**

The Black notes derive their names from the White notes

The Black notes are called sharps or flats depending on where your standing

Sharpening means to raise a note by a semi tone

Flattening means to lower a note by a semi tone

Sharps and flats are represented with accidentals (accidental is a sign placed above the note to show the note must be changed in pitch)

ACCIDENTALS

This accidental is: Natural, sharp and flat

If you're in **C** and you rise by a semi tone that Black tone becomes **C sharp** (C#)

If you're in **D** and you go a semi tone lower that Black note becomes **D flat** (Db)

Hence:

- C# is also known as Db
- D# is also known as Eb

- F# is also known as Gb

G# is also known as Ab

- A# is also known as Bb

SCALE

- is an **ordered** sequence of notes
- It's a musical ladder; ascending and descending in a sol-fa notation

There are different types of scales which are; Major scale

Minor scale

Natural minor scale

Chromatic scale

Pentatonic scale

Harmonic minor scale

Blue scale

- *Each scale has its own formulae*
- The distance interval between or from one note to the immediate next is always a half a tone or semi tone or a half a step
- The distance between two white notes is a whole tone except B&C and E&F where is a semi tone

MAJOR THIRD	4 HALF STEPS
MINOR THIRD	3 HALF STEPS

MAJOR SCALE

This scale makes up sol-fa notation [DO RE MI FA SO LA TI DO]

Major scale formula

TONE – TONE –SEMI TONE –TONE – TONE – TONE -SEMI TONE

T-T-S-T-T-T-S

OR

WHOLE -WHOLE -HALF-WHOLE - WHOLE – WHOLE – HALF

W-W-H-W-W-W-H

Key C

C D E F G A B C

Key D

D E F# G A B C# D

Key E

E F# G# A B C# D# E

Key F

F G A A# C D E F

Key G

G A B C D E F# G

Key A

A B C# D E F# G# A

Key B

B C# D# E F# G# A# B

Key C#

C# D# F F# G# A# C C#

Key D#

D# F G G# A# C D D#

Key F#

F# G# A# B C# D# F F#

Key G#

G# A# C C# D# F G G#

Key A#

A# C D F# F G A A#

MINOR SCALE

Minor scales are built with a formula of

WHOLE – HALF –WHOLE – WHOLE – HALF – WHOLE – WHOLE -

W – H- W- W – H – W –W

Key C

C D D# F G G# A# C

Key D

D E F G A A# C D

Key E

E F# G A B C D E

Key F

F G Ab Bb C Db Eb F

Key G

G A Bb C D Eb F G

Key A

A B C D E F G A

Key C#

C# D# E F# G# A B C#

Key D#

D# F F# G# A# B C# D#

Key F#

F# G# A B C# D E F#

Key G#

G# A# B C# D# E F# G#

Key A#

A# C C# D# F F# G# A#

RELATIVE MINOR SCALE

- Is a minor scale that shares its key signature with a related major scale
- If you start with a major scale the relative minor that begins on the sixth decree

Chord/ Scale	Relative Minor
C	Am
C#	A#m
D	Bm
D#	Cm
E	C#m
F	Dm
F#	D#m
G	Em
G#	Fm
A	F#m
A#	Gm
B	G#m

CHROMATIC SCALE

- A series of half steps which comprises all the 12 pitches
- It's a scale that include all the 12 tones in sequential order

  C C# D D# E F F# G G# A A# B

- Chromatic scale can start from any of the twelve notes

MAJOR SCALE FINGERING

- Each finger is designed to play a particular note
- You must sit upright to achieve this

Relax your shoulders

Keep your back straight

Relax your elbows

Not sitting too far back makes it easier to play

Keep your weight on your buttocks, and don't put so much strength into your feet.
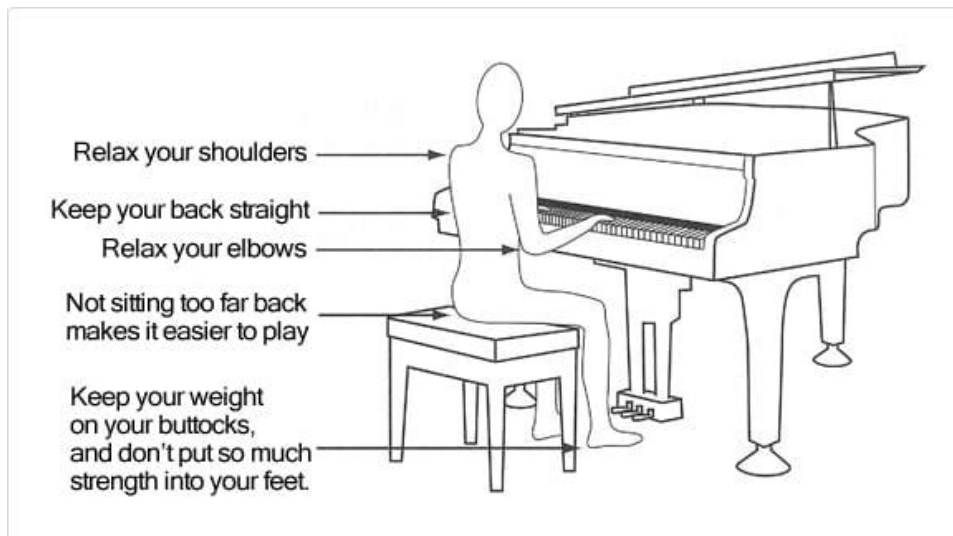
- You must know your finger numbers

Piano Fingers Numbers

Left Hand

Right Hand

Left

Right
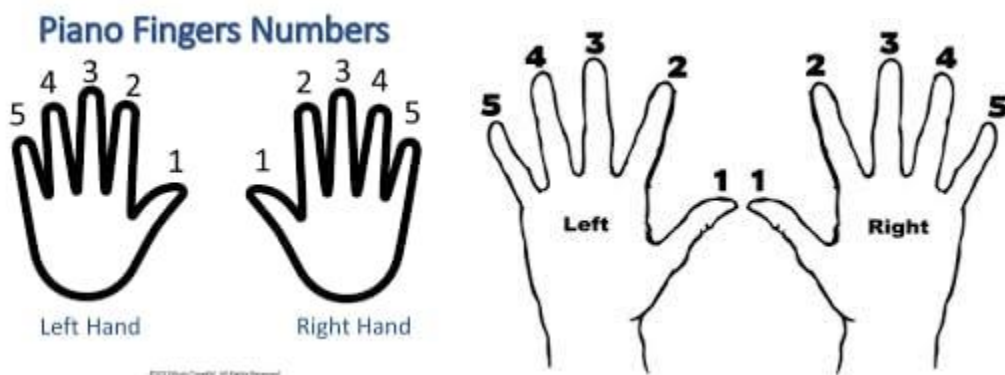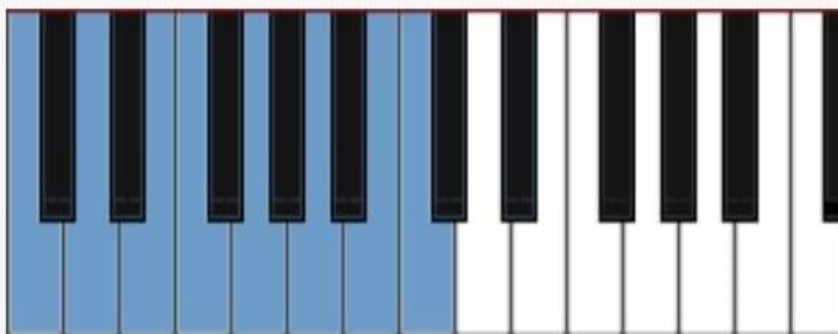
C Major

Notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C

Fingering (LH): 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1
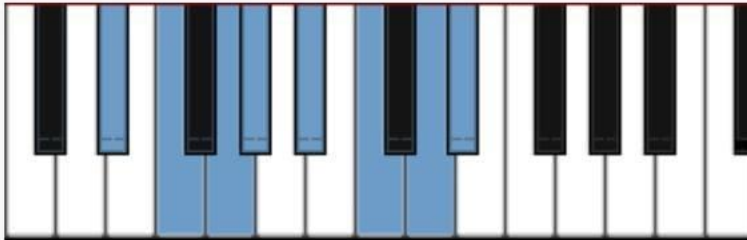
Fingering (RH): 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

D Major
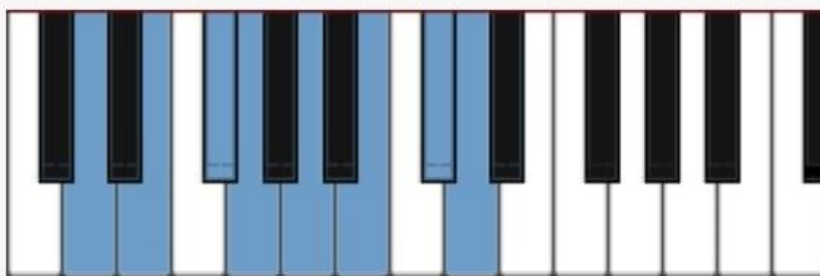
Notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, D

Fingering (LH): 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1
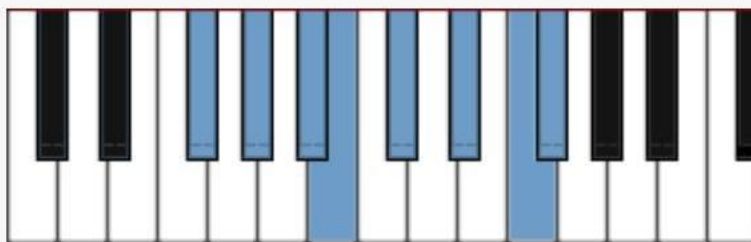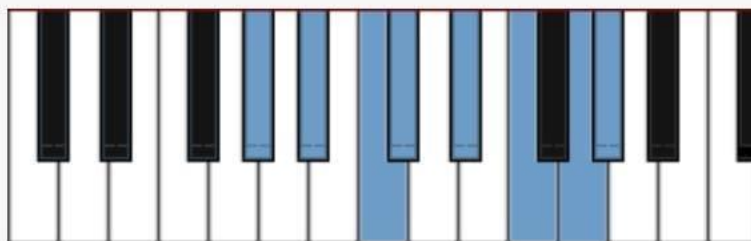
Fingering (RH): 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

E Major
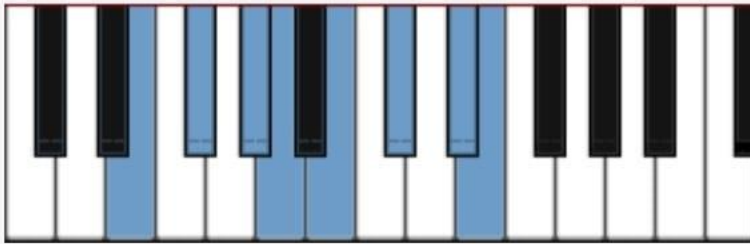
Notes: E, F#, G#, A, B, C#, D#, E

Fingering (LH): 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1

Fingering (RH): 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

F Major
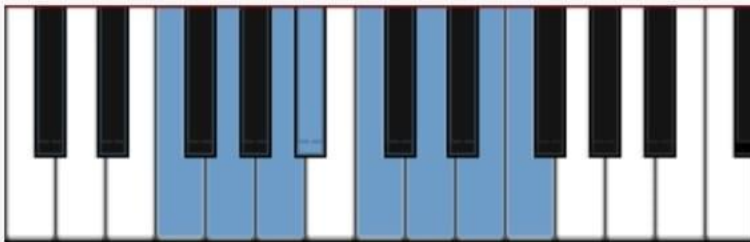
Notes: F, G, A, Bb, C, D, E, F

Fingering (LH): 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1

Fingering (RH): 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4

G Major
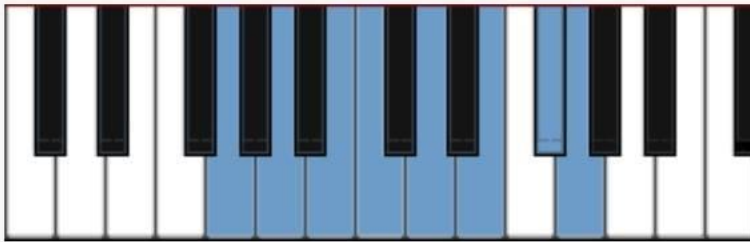
Notes: G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G

Fingering (LH): 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1

Fingering (RH): 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

A Major
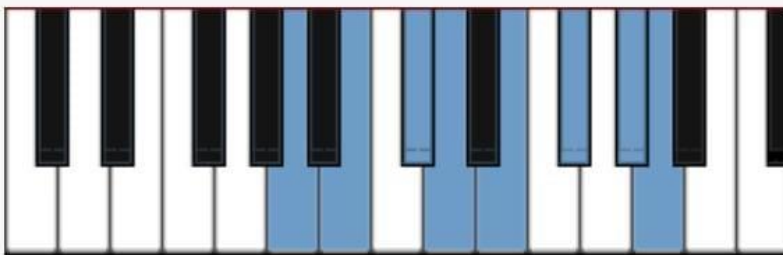
Notes: A, B, C#, D, E, F#, G#, A

Fingering (LH): 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1

Fingering (RH): 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

C# / Db Major
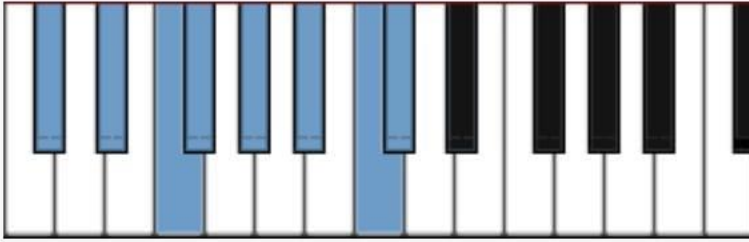
Notes: Db, Eb, F, Gb, Ab, Bb, C, Db

Fingering (LH): 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3

Fingering (RH): 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2

D# / Eb Major

Notes: Eb, F, G, Ab, Bb, C, D, Eb

Fingering (LH): 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3

Fingering (RH): 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3

F# / Gb Major

Notes: F#, G#, A#, B, C#, D#, F, F#

Fingering (LH): 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1, 4

Fingering (RH): 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2

G# / Ab Major

Notes: Ab, Bb, C, Db, Eb, F, G, Ab

Fingering (LH): 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3

Fingering (RH): 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3

A# / Bb Major
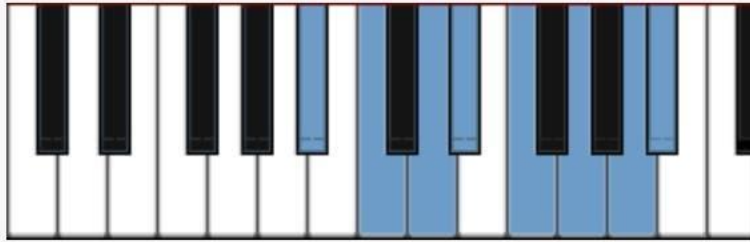
Notes: Bb, C, D, Eb, F, G, A, Bb

Fingering (LH): 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3

Fingering (RH): 4, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4

CHORDS & TRIADS

- Chords are a combination of three or more notes
- Triad is a type of code that has three notes
- There are four types of triads

Major chords

Minor chords

Diminished chord

Augmented chord

MAJOR CHORDS

FORMULA

It is formed by a route note plus the third note plus the fifth note of its scale degree

The major third + minor third

R + 3 + 5   OR   1+ 3 + 5

- C major (C). C – E – G
- C# major (C#). C# - F - G#
- D major (D). D – F# - A
- Eb major (Eb). Eb – G – Bb
- E major (E). E – G# - B
- F major (F). F – A – C
- F# major (F#). F# - A# - C#
- G major (G). G – B – D
- Ab major (Ab). Ab – C – Eb
- A major (A). A – C# - E
- Bb major (Bb). Bb – D – F
- B major (B). B – D# - F#

MAJOR CHORDS

C Major | C# Major | D Major

Eb Major | E Major | F Major

F# Major | G Major | Ab Major

A Major | Bb Major | B Major
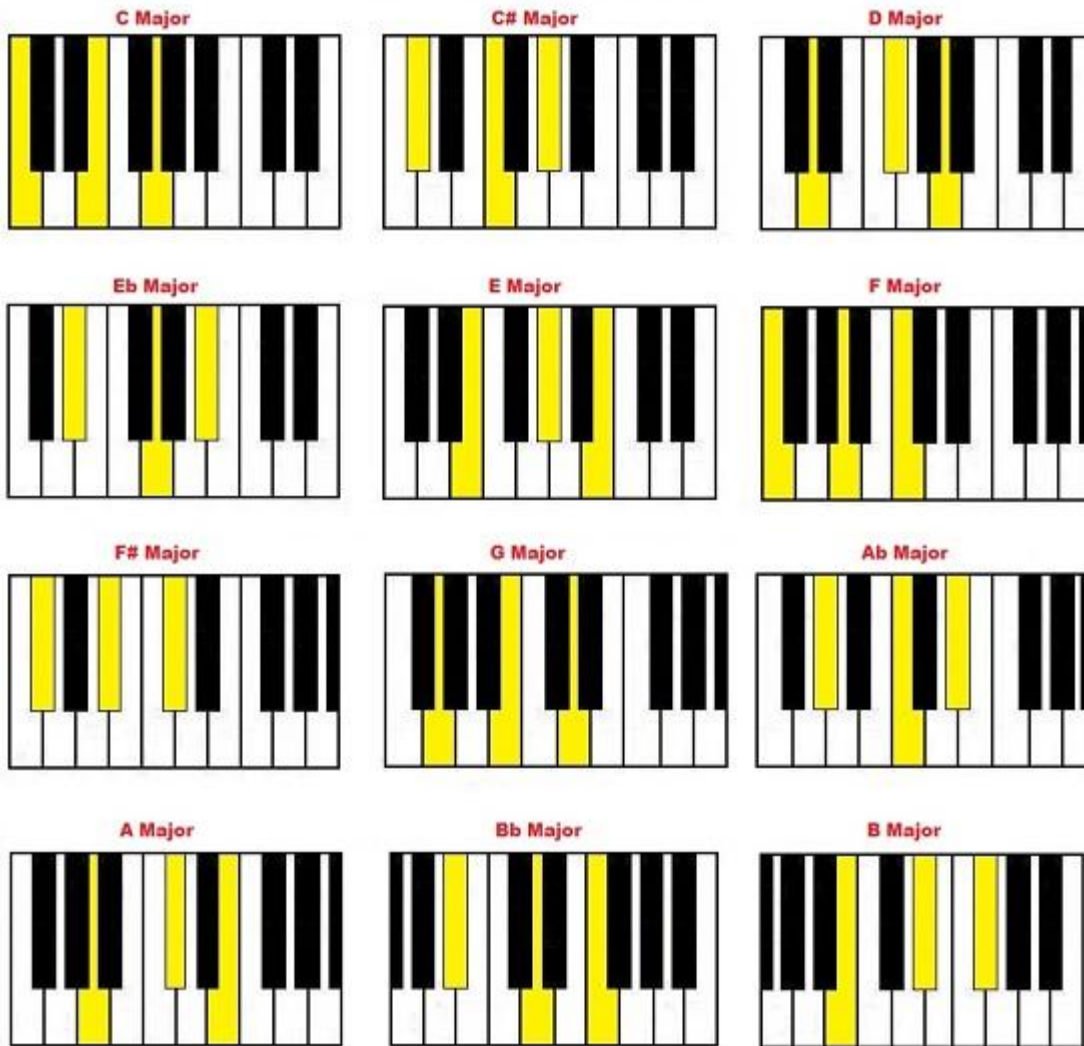
MINOR CHORDS

Formula

It is formed by the root note plus the flattened the third note plus the fifth note of its scale degree

Minor third + Major third

- C minor – C D# G
- C sharp minor – C♯ E G♯
- D minor – D F A

- E flat minor – E♭ G♭ B♭
- E minor – E G B
- F minor – F A♭ C
- F sharp minor – F♯ A C♯
- G minor – G A# D
- A flat minor – Ab B Eb
- A minor – A C E
- B flat minor – B♭ D♭ F

MINOR CHORDS

A Minor
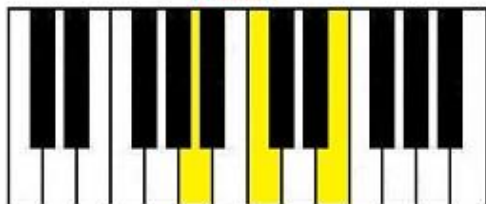
Bb Minor
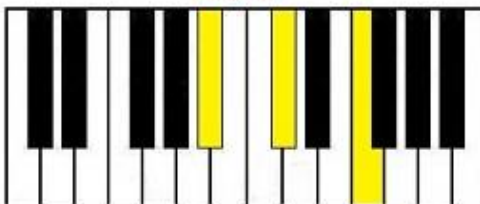
B Minor
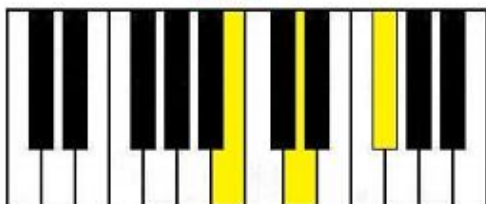
C Minor
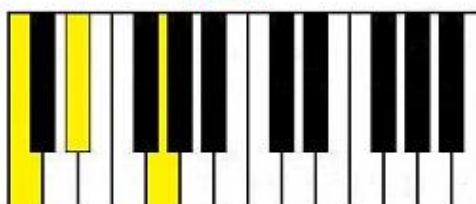
C# Minor
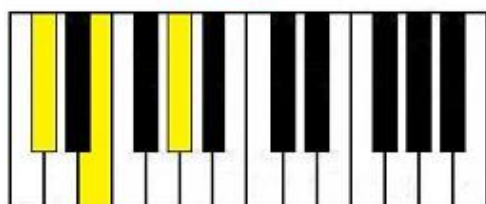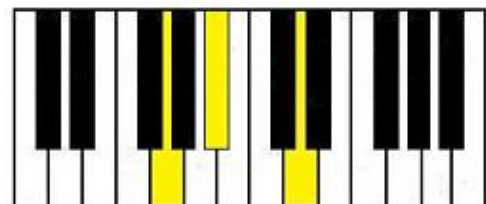
D Minor
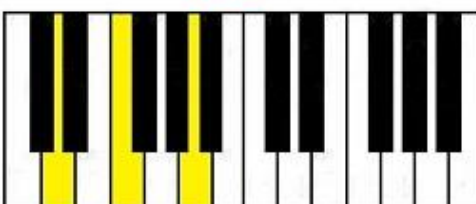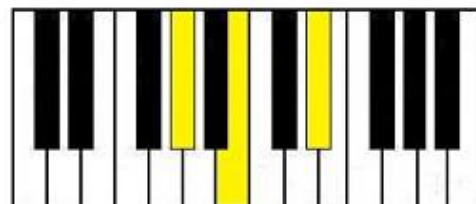
Eb Minor
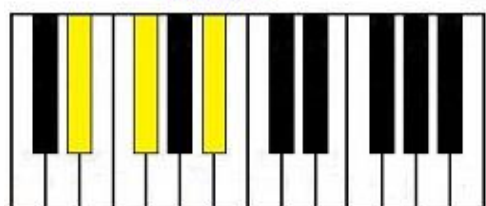
E Minor
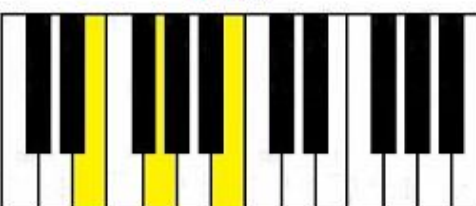
F Minor
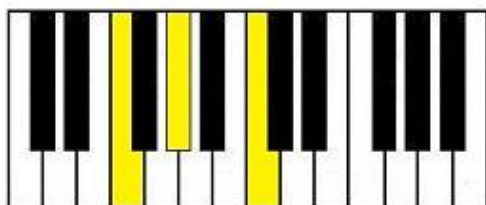
F# Minor
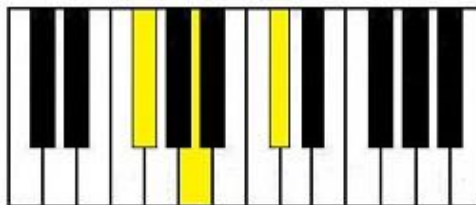
G Minor

Ab Minor

DIMINISHED CHORDS

- It is formed by two minor thirds
- Root plus flattened third plus flattened fifth
- Diminished chord can be written as Dim
- C diminished – C E♭ G♭
- C♯ diminished – C♯ E G
- D diminished – D F A♭
- E♭ diminished – E♭ Gb A
- E diminished – E G B♭
- F diminished – F Ab B
- F♯ diminished – F♯ A C
- G diminished – G B♭ D♭
- A♭ diminished – Ab B D
- A diminished – A C E♭
- B♭ diminished – B♭ D♭E
- B diminished – B D F

Diminished Chords

C Diminished
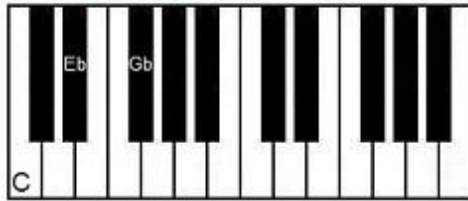
C# Diminished
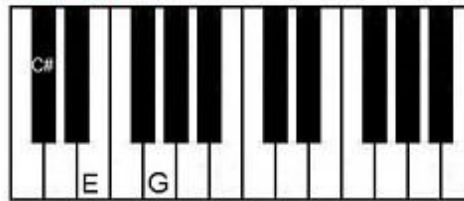
D Diminished
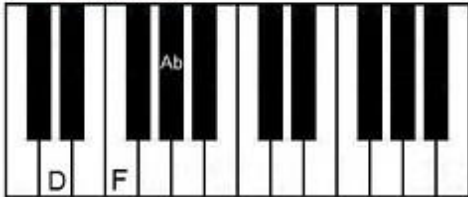
Eb Diminished
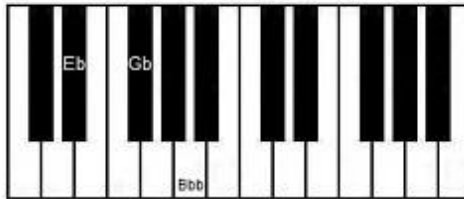
E Diminished
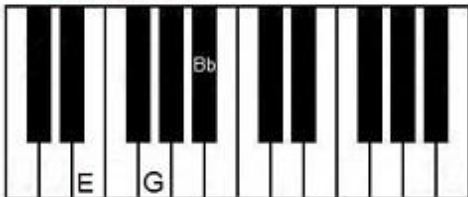
F Diminished
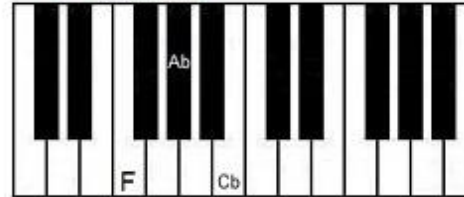
F# Diminished
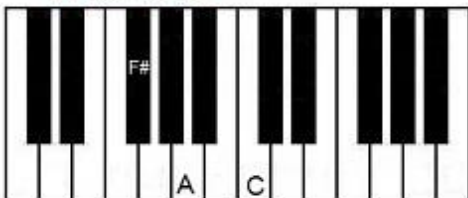
G Diminished
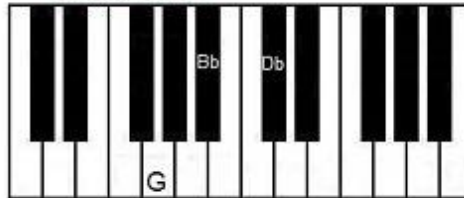
Ab Diminished
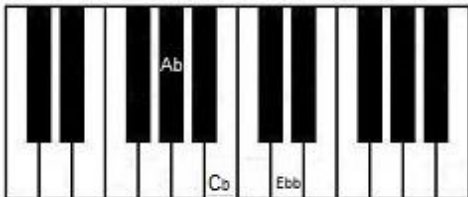
A Diminished
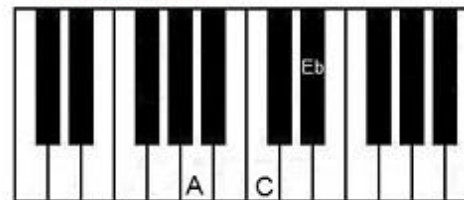
Bb Diminished
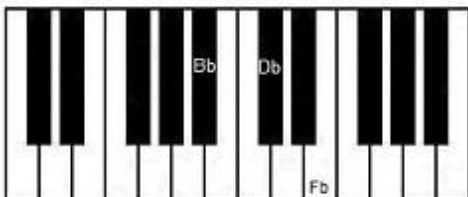
B Diminished
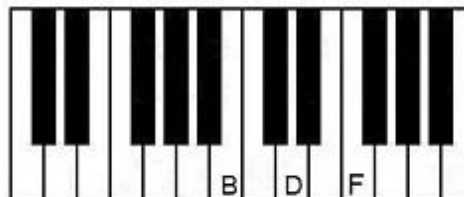
AUGMENTED CHORDS

- This are major triads with a sharp fifth
- Each note in augmented triad is two whole steps above the prior note
- C augmented – C E G♯
- C♯ augmented – C♯ F A
- D augmented – D F♯ A♯
- E♭ augmented – E♭ G B
- E augmented – E G♯ C
- F augmented – F A C♯
- F♯ augmented – F♯ A♯ D
- G augmented – G B D♯
- A♭ augmented – A♭ C E
- A augmented – A C♯ F
- B♭ augmented – B♭ D F♯
- B augmented – B D♯ G

C AUGMENTED

C E G# | 1 3 5 | Right Hand
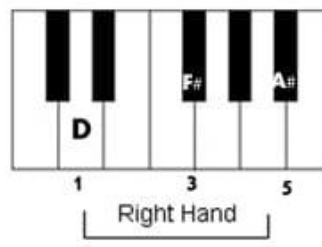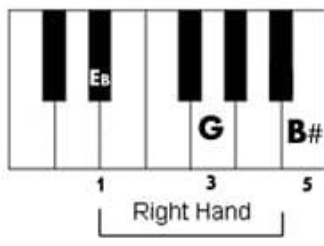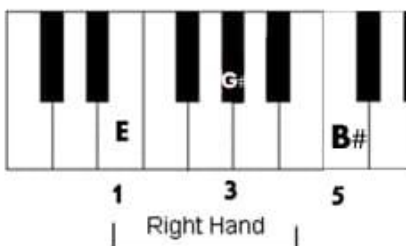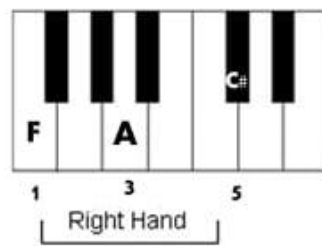
C# AUGMENTED

C# E# G## | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

D AUGMENTED

D F# A# | 1 3 5 | Right Hand
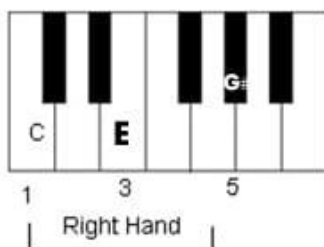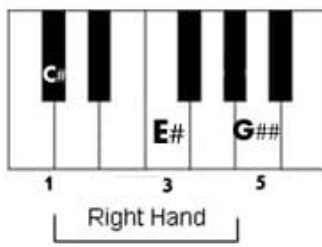
E FLAT AUGMENTED

Eb G B# | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

E AUGMENTED

E G# B# | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

F AUGMENTED

F A C# | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

F# AUGMENTED

F# A# C## | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

G AUGMENTED

G B D# | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

A FLAT AUGMENTED

Ab C E | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

A AUGMENTED

A C# E# | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

B FLAT AUGMENTED

Bb D F# | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

B AUGMENTED

B D# F## | 1 3 5 | Right Hand

24
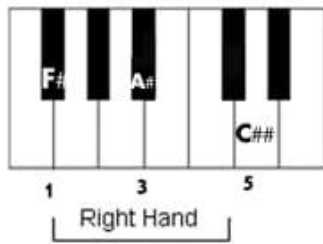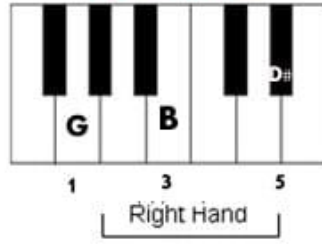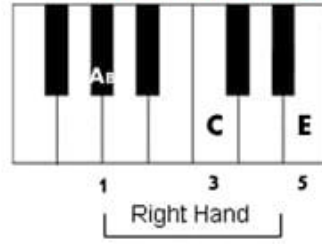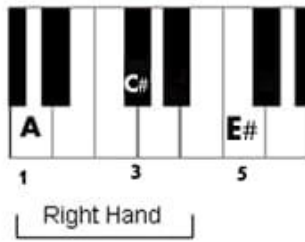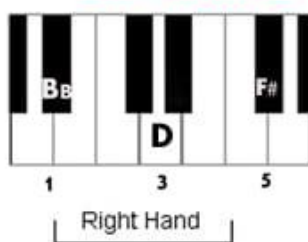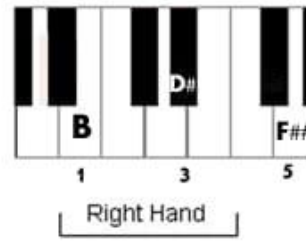
PROGRESSION & NUMBER SYSTEM

- A chord progression is the order in which chords are played one after another in a song or in a piece of music
- The chords you can use and the order you play them makes up the harmony of a song

1. DO – Tonic –Major chord
2. Re -   Super Tonic – Major chord
3. Mi -   Mediant – Minor chord
4. Fa – Sub dominant – Major chord
5. So – Dominant – Major chord
6. La – Sub Mediant – Minor chord
7. Ti– Leading tone – Diminished chord

CHORD INVERSION

- Inversion is different way you can arrange the notes in two chords
- For instance, you play three notes; there will be three inversions that you can play out that chord
- The purpose of inversion is to add colour to your music

CHORD INVERSION TABLE

CHORD	ROOT POSITON	1ST INVERSION	2ND NVERSION
C	C E G	E G C	G C E
D	D F# A	F# A D	A D F#
E	E G# B	G# B E	B E G#
F	F A C	A C F	C F A
G	G B D	B D G	D G B
A	A C # E	C# E A	E A C#
B	B D# F#	D# F# B	F# B D#
C#	C# F G#	F G# C#	G# C# F
D #	D# G A#	G A# D#	A# D# G
F#	F# A# C#	A# C# F#	C# F# A#
G#	G# C D#	C D# G#	D# G# C
A#	A# D F	D F A#	F A# D

SEVENTH CHORD

There are five types of seven chords

MAJOR SEVENTH
Add the seventh note on the top of the original chord – 1357
C major seventh – C E G B
C# major seventh – C# F G# C
D major seventh – D F# A C#
Eb major seventh – Eb G Bb D
E major seventh – E G# B D#
F major seventh – F A C E
F# major seventh – F# A# C# F
G major seventh – G B D F#
Ab major seventh – Ab C Eb G
A major seventh – A C# E G#
Bb major seventh – Bb D F A
B major seventh – B D# F# A#

DOMINANT SEVENTH
1. C Dom 7 C E G A#
2. D Dom 7 D F# A C
3. E Dom 7 E G# B D
4. F Dom 7 F A C D#
5. G Dom 7 G B D F
6. A Dom 7 A C# E G
7. B Dom 7 B D# F# A
8. C# Dom 7 C# F G# B
9 D# Dom 7 D# G A# C#
10. F# Dom 7 F# A# C# E
11. G# Dom 7 G# C D# F#
12. A# Dom 7 A# D F G#

MINOR SEVENTH
Formed by flattening the third and the seventh note
1. C Minor 7 C D# G A#
2. D Minor 7 D F A C
3. E Minor 7 E G B D
4. F Minor F G# C D#
5. G Minor 7 G A# D F
6. A Minor 7 A C E G

7. B Minor 7 B D F# A
8. C# Minor 7 C# E G# B
9. D# Minor 7 D# F# A# C#
10. F# Minor 7 F# A C# E
11. G# Minor 7 G# B D# F#
12. A# Minor 7 A# C# F G#

HALF DIMINISHED / MINOR 7 FLAT 5

1. C m7 b5 C D# F# A#
2. D m7 b5 D F G# C
3. E m7 b5 E G A# D
4. F m7 b5 F G# B D#
5. G m7 b5 G A# C# F
6. A m7 b5 A C D# G
7. B m7 b5 B D F A
8. C# m7 b5 C# E G B
9. D# m7 b5 D# F# A C#
10. F# m7 b5 F# A C E
11. G# m7 b5 G# B D F#
12. A# m7 b5 A# C# E G#

DIMINISHED CHORD

Formed by three minor thirds

1. C Diminished C D# F# A
2. D Diminished D F G# B
3. E Diminished E G A# C#
4. F Diminished F G# B D
5. G Diminished G A# C# E
6. A Diminished A C D# F#
7. B Diminished B D F G#
8. C# Diminished C# E G A#
9. D# Diminished D# F# A C
10. F# Diminished F# A C D#
11. G# Diminished G# B D F
12. A# Diminished A# C# E G

CIRCLE OF FOURTHS & FIFTHS

- Is the clock of music showing the relationship between the 12 key signature
- It basically shows the relationship between the key note and its fourth and fifth It basically shows the relationship between the keynote and its fourth and fifth
- The relationship between C & F is a fourth and F to Bb is fourth too
- If we follow the circle round anti clockwise the notes go up the fourths
- If we follow the circle round clockwise the notes go up