



Building the Major Scale

The pattern behind almost every major key

A major scale is built using a fixed pattern of whole steps (W) and half steps (H). Once you know the pattern, you can build a major scale starting on any note.

The major scale formula

Whole – Whole – Half – Whole – Whole – Whole – Half

W	W	H	W	W	W	H
whole	whole	half	whole	whole	whole	half

Example: C major (no sharps or flats)

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
	W	W	H	W	W	W	H

How to build any major scale

1. Start on the root note (the name of the scale).
2. Follow the W-W-H-W-W-W-H pattern.
3. A whole step = 2 semitones (skip one key on the piano).
4. A half step = 1 semitone (next key, white or black).

Why this is the foundation

Every major chord, every major-key progression, and the number system itself is built from this scale. Master the formula and you can construct any major scale and its chords.

The Chord Number System counts the degrees of this scale (1 2 3 4 5 6 7).