

# Intervals

An *interval* is the distance between two notes.

As we have noted on the previous page, the hammered dulcimer is organized

**Clarification January 2021 (this paragraph is the only change)** A scale is created out of the *chromatic scale*. The chromatic scale is comprised of 12 pitches.

One way to think of the major scale is that we join two tetrachords by a whole step. A tetrachord is a sequence (partial scale) comprised of four notes where the first and last note are a perfect 4th apart (2 1/2 steps) and the intervals between each note are 1 STEP, 1 STEP, 1/2 STEP.

## The Chromatic Scale:

C	C# (D <sup>b</sup> )	D	D# (E <sup>b</sup> )	E	F	F# (G <sup>b</sup> )	G	G# (A <sup>b</sup> )	A	A# (B <sup>b</sup> )	B	C
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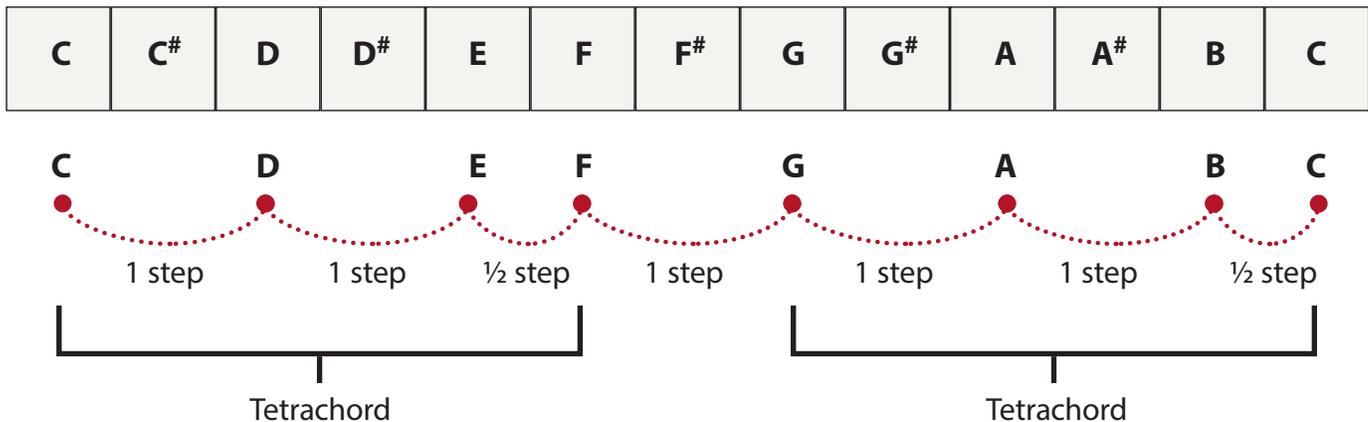
The notes in parentheses are the exact same pitch and are called *enharmonics*. Notice that there is no note between E and F, and between B and C. The distance between these notes is *still* a half step. To form a major scale, we can start on any note of the chromatic scale and use a formula:



## Cut along dashed line, print, and tape into your book:

One way to think of the major scale is that we join two *tetrachords* by a whole step. A tetrachord is a sequence (partial scale) comprised of four notes where the first and last note are a *perfect 4<sup>th</sup>* apart (2 1/2 steps) and the intervals between each note are 1 STEP, 1 STEP, 1/2 STEP.

As an example, to create a C major scale, we start on a C and count:



Why is all of this theory relevant? Understanding how major scales are constructed can help us see intervals on the hammered dulcimer.