

The Mother of All Scales: C Major

The first scale every musician should learn

Music is a journey. Enjoy the beautiful steps.

1) WHY IT MATTERS



- Foundation of: keys, chords, melody, harmony, modes, ear training
- Bright, stable, familiar sound



2) THE FORMULA

Major scale pattern:

Whole - Whole - Half -
Whole - Whole - Whole - Half

Short form:

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

- ★ Whole step = 2 semitones;
- Half step = 1 semitone

3) C MAJOR NOTES

C - D - E - F - G - A - B - C

Note: No sharps, no flats

All white keys from C to C



Half steps:

E - F

B - C

4) SCALE DEGREES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
Tonic = home	Supertonic = movement	Mediant = major color	Subdominant = tension / openness	Dominant = strong pull home	Submediant = warm	Leading tone = resolves to 1	Tonic = home (again)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1

5) SOLFÈGE



Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do

Sing it to train your ear

6) BUILD CHORDS FROM THE SCALE

I = C	ii = Dm	iii = Em	IV = F	V = G	vi = Am	vii° = Bdim
C E G	D F A	E G B	F A C	G B D	A C E	B D F
 Major	 minor	 minor	 Major	 Major	 minor	 diminished

Chord-quality pattern: Major - minor - minor - Major - Major - minor - diminished
Roman numerals: I - ii - iii - IV - V - vi - vii°

7) MOST IMPORTANT CHORDS

★ I, IV, V

In C major: C - F - G

Mini progression:

C - F - G - C

home → movement →
tension → home

8) RELATIVE MINOR

The relative minor starts on degree 6

C major → A minor

Same notes,
different home note

9) MODES FROM C MAJOR

Ionian Dorian Phrygian Lydian Mixolydian Aeolian Locrian
C D E F G A B

★ The major scale is also called Ionian.

10) HOW TO PRACTICE

- ✓ Say the note names
- ✓ Sing the solfège
- ✓ Play slowly with a metronome
- ✓ Count scale degrees
- ✓ Practice intervals and triads
- ✓ Make tiny melodies



11) AVOID THESE MISTAKES

- ✗ Memorizing only finger shapes
- ✗ Playing too fast
- ✗ Not singing
- ✗ Ignoring scale degrees
- ✗ Not connecting scales to chords

12) MEMORIZE FIRST

≈	W W H W W W H
①	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ①
🎵	Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do
III	I ii iii IV V vi vii°
♥	I IV V

Small steps every day
create beautiful music.