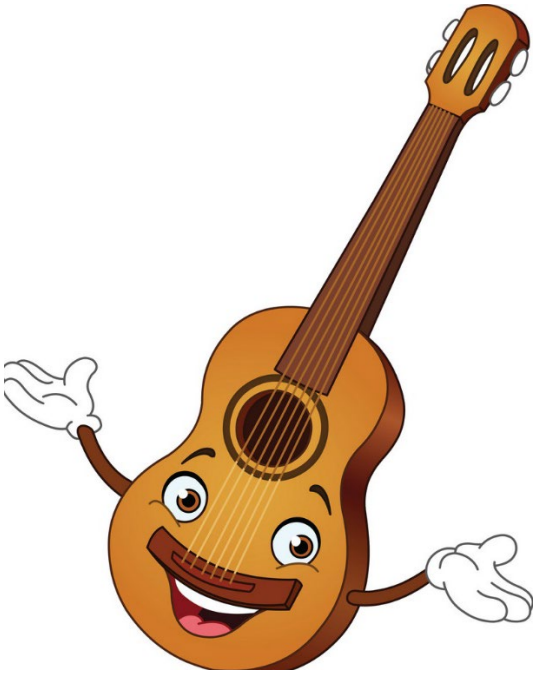
Learning GUITAR



Music Theory

By

Tim Twiss

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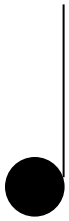
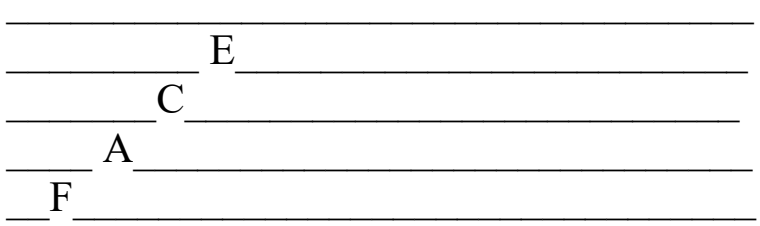
Music Theory



This is a **NOTE.** It is a symbol representing sound.
Each note has a name, like the alphabet.
A B C D E F G
It will get its name by where it falls on the **STAFF**

This is the **STAFF**

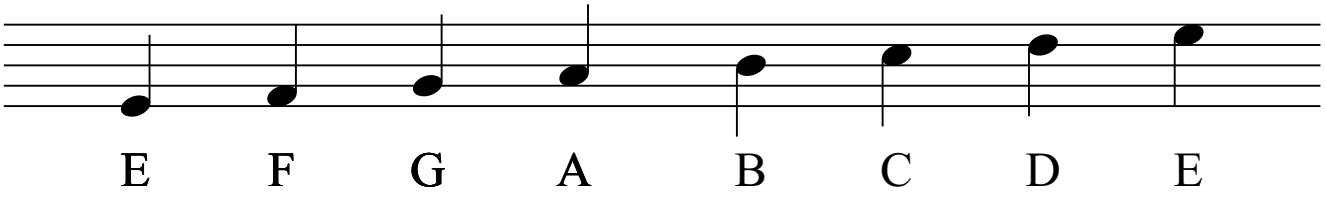
The **STAFF** has lines and spaces.
Each line and space has a name. We must memorize them.



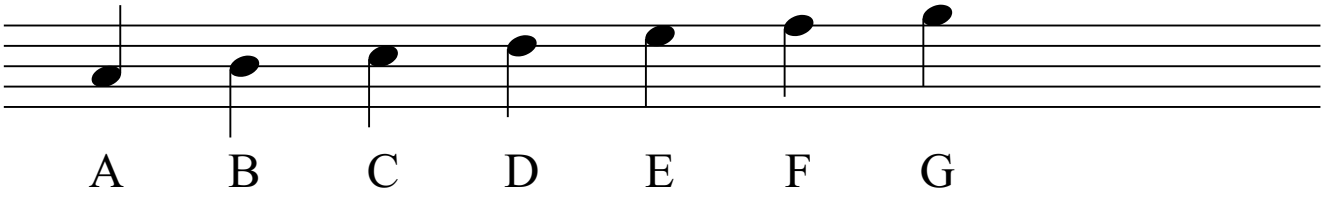
The spaces spell **FACE from low to high**
So remember **SPACE/FACE**

The lines are **E G B D F** from low to high
So remember… **Every Good Bear Deserves Fudge**.

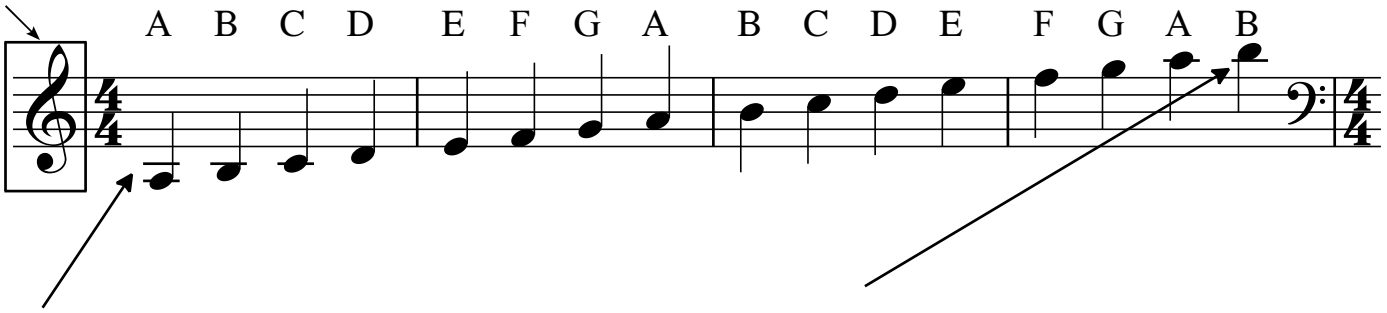
Notes can be on lines or spaces.
Where they are on the staff determines the **PITCH** of the note.
The stems can be either up or down.
(Depending on where the note is)



The notes follow the sequence of the alphabet as they go up, stopping at G.

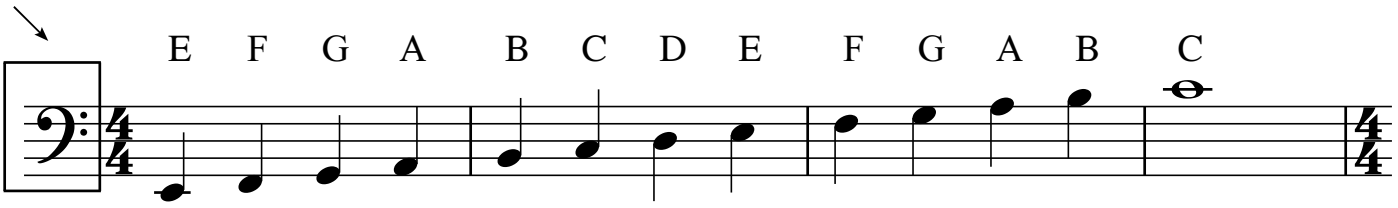


A **TREBLE CLEF** sign appears at the beginning of music on a staff.

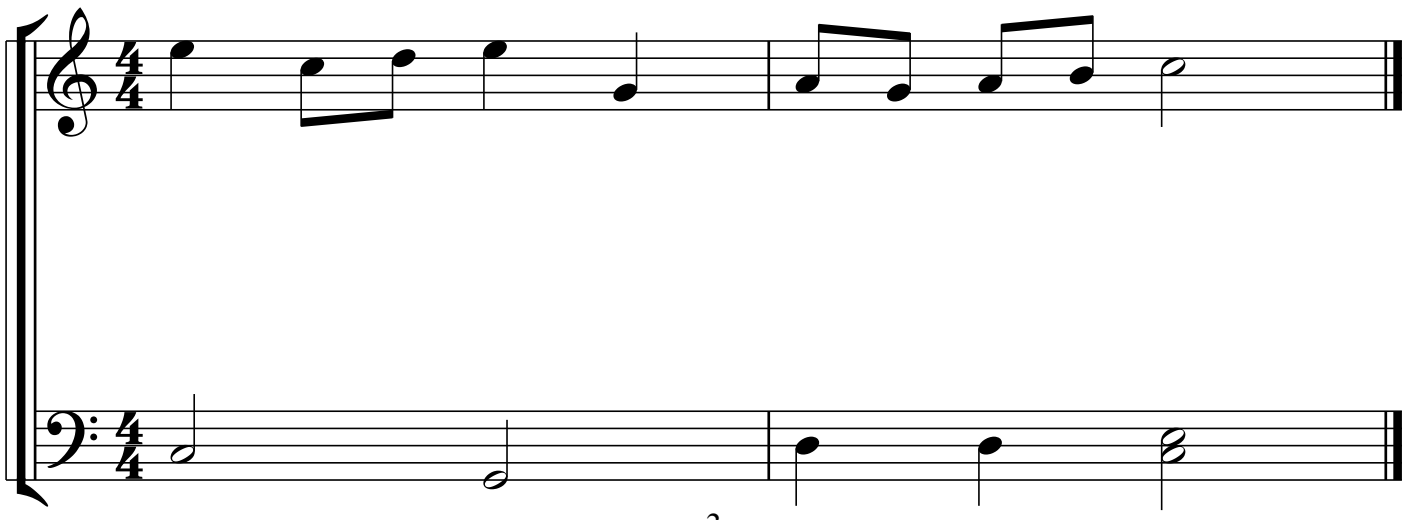


LEDGER LINES allow notes to go above or below the staff.

There is also a **BASS CLEF** sign. This is for the lower notes. MEMORIZE THESE NOTES



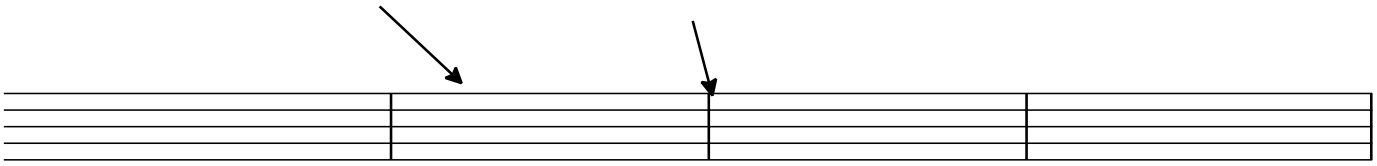
Piano players read music with both clefs at the same time.



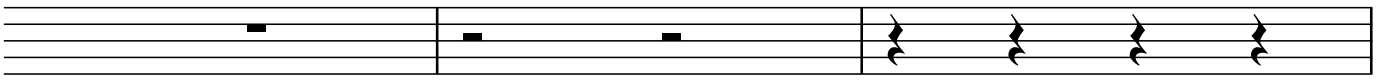
There are different types of notes to indicate duration.

Whole Note 4 counts **Half Notes** 2 counts each **Quarter Notes** 1 count each

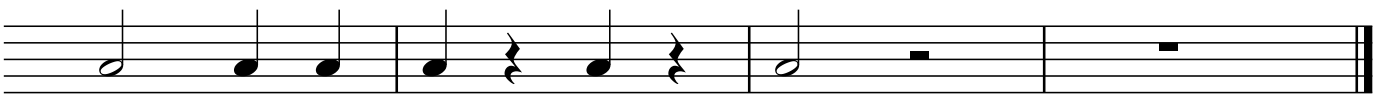
Music is divided into **MEASURES** by **BAR LINES**.



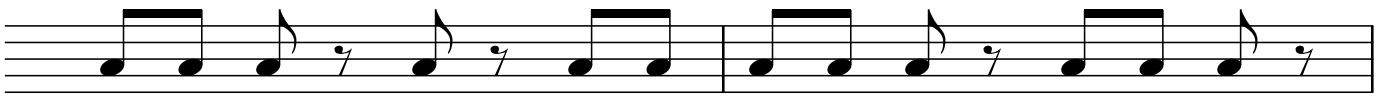
There are also RESTS. A rest is a measured absence of sound.
Below are **whole, half, and quarter rests.**



You can have combinations of rests and notes.



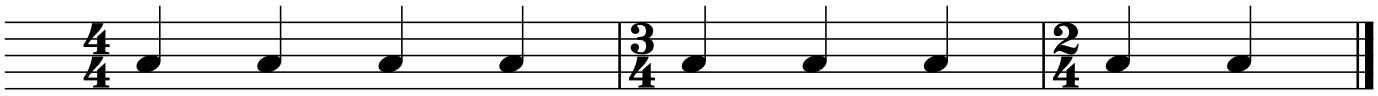
Eighth Notes and Eighth Rests -1/2 count each



1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

You may have different combinations of eighth, quarter, half, and whole notes...and rests.

This brings about the need for **TIME SIGNATURES**. Time signatures are numbers indicating the number of beats in each measure. It will always appear at the beginning of a song. The top number tells you how many beats are in each measure.



Above we see FOUR FOUR , THREE FOUR, and TWO FOUR time signatures.

GLOSSARY

NOTES-Symbols indicating pitch and duration
STAFF-Five horizontal lines on which musical notes are written
MEASURE-A small, equal division of beats on the staff
BAR LINE-Vertical line creating measures
RHYTHM-The feeling of movement in music
PITCH-Sound of a musical note, described as low or high
TIME SIGNATURE-Numbers indicating beats per measure.

Notes are symbols indicating **pitch** and **duration**. They look like this…

Whole Half Quarter

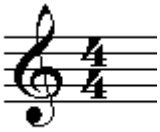
The fact that they are quarter, half, or whole notes pertains to their **duration….**how long they are played for.

The whole note gets 4 counts.
The half note gets 2 counts.
The quarter note gets 1 count.

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

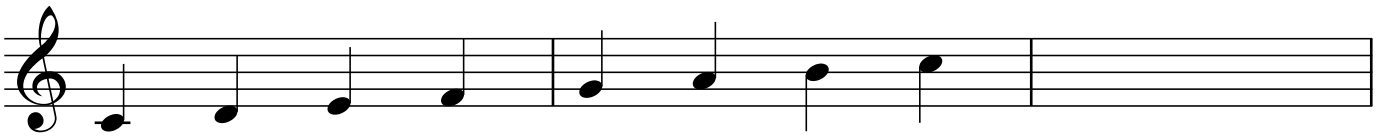
So, like in math….4=2+2 or 4=1+1+1+1 or 4=2+1+1

In music, these notes are placed on the staff and divided into measures according to what the time signature indicates. If the time signature is:



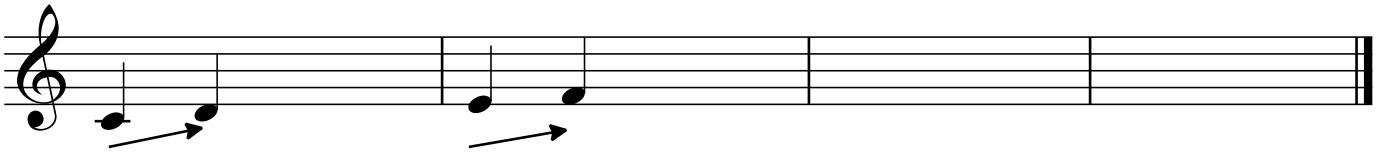
then there will be a total of 4 counts in each measure. This can be any combination of notes and rests that add up to 4 counts.

SCALES



C MAJOR SCALE

C to D is a whole step E to F is a half step



SCALES are a series of stepwise notes in a specific order of half steps and whole steps.

The MAJOR SCALE pattern goes:
whole whole half whole whole whole half.

The MAJOR SCALE has seven notes, and then repeats itself.

The notes in the C MAJOR SCALE are C D E F G A B C.

Sometimes this is thought of as DO RE ME FA SO LA TI DO.

As we saw earlier, a scale was a series of stepwise notes in a specific order of half and whole steps. The scale we need to know about is the major scale. The notes of the C Major Scale are…C D E F G A B C. The pattern is *whole, whole, half, whole, whole, whole, half.*

C D E F G A B C

WHOLE WHOLE HALF WHOLE WHOLE WHOLE HALF

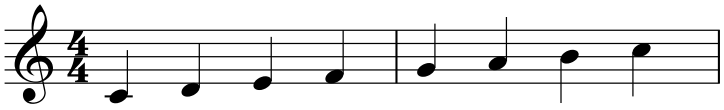
You can build a major scale starting on any note. Whatever note you start on determines the key you are in. We will look at a scale beginning on G. If we follow the pattern of whole and half steps as we saw earlier, we will have the G Major Scale. These notes are…G A B C D E F# G.
This sign # means sharp, or raising up. F # (F sharp) is an F that is raised by a half step. We must do this to keep the major scale pattern the same as it was for C.

G A B C D E F# G

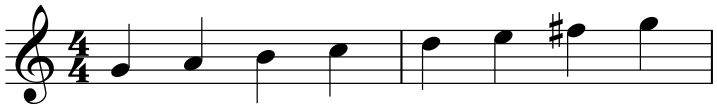
WHOLE WHOLE HALF WHOLE WHOLE WHOLE HALF

Now we have a need for key signatures. A key signature tells us what notes to play sharp (or flat). For the key of G, we need one sharp…F#. This allows the major scale to sound correctly when starting on G. We can recognize the key of G by seeing one sharp placed on the staff, letting us know that all the F notes will be sharp in the song.

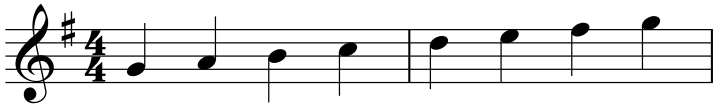
1. This is the C Major Scale



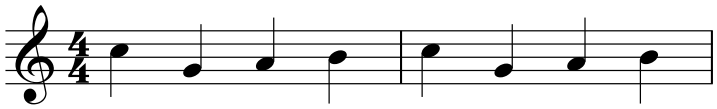
2. This is the G Major Scale (without the key signature)



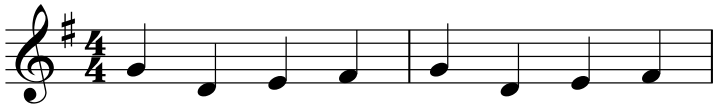
3. This is the G Major Scale (with the key signature)



4. Game show song in the key of C



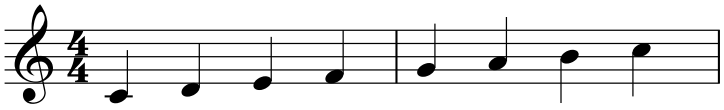
5. Game show song in the key of G



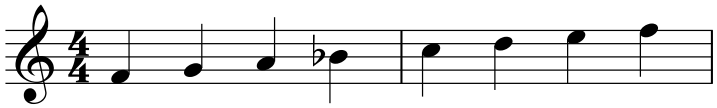
The beginning of a song is where we will see the **key signature**.
If it has no sharps or flats in it, we can say that it is in the key of C.
If it has one sharp, we can say it is in the key of G.

The purpose of a key signature is to make the major scale pattern work the same way in a different pitch, or key.

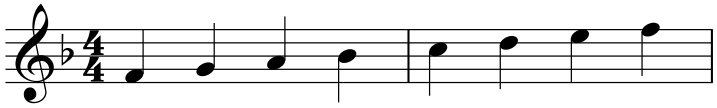
1. This is the C Major Scale



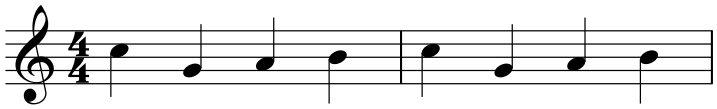
2. This is the F Major Scale (without the key signature)



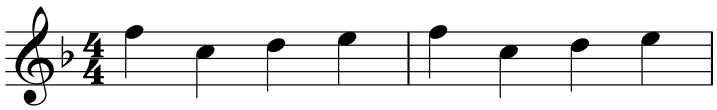
3. This is the F Major Scale (with the key signature)



4. Game show song in the key of C

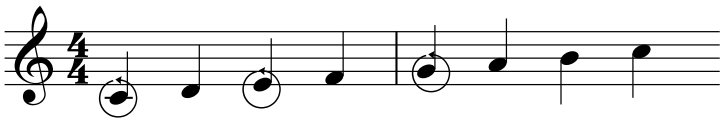


5. Game show song in the key of G

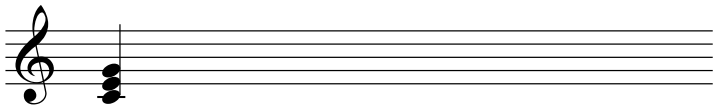


The key of C has no sharps or flats.
The key of G has one sharp.(F#)
The key of F has one flat. (B♭)

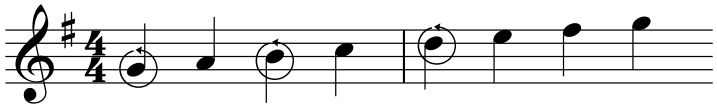
1. This is a C Major Scale. Three notes are circled, and they are used to create a triad.



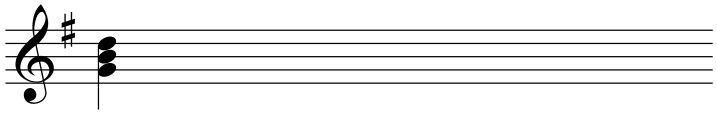
2. This is a C Major Triad.



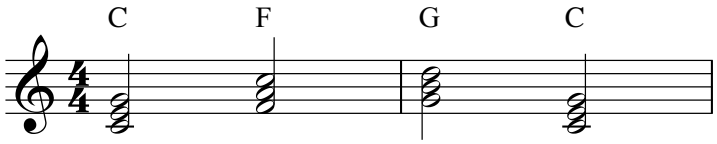
3. This is the G Major Scale



4. This is a G Major Triad

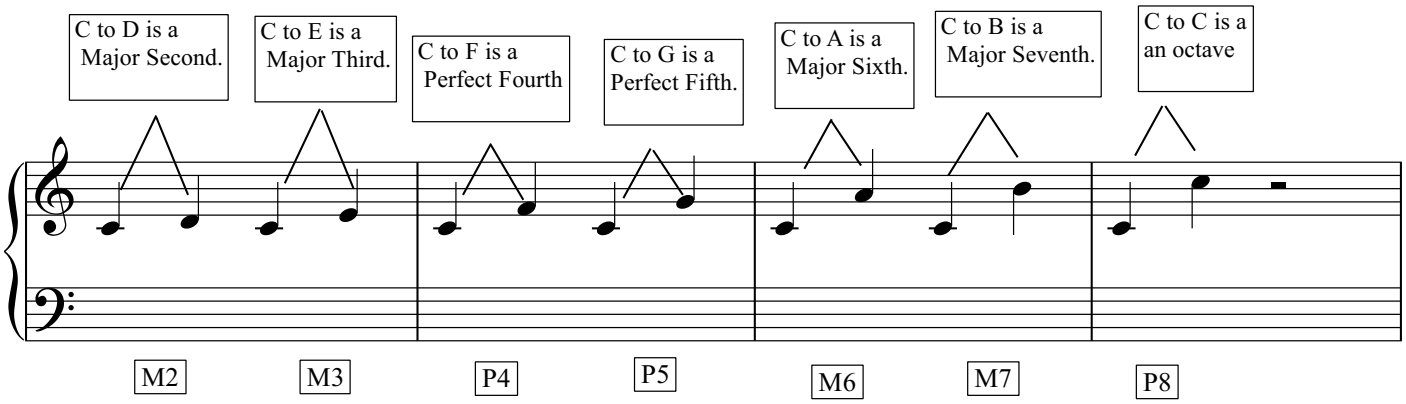


5. C F and G triads



A **triad** is a group of 3 notes stacked in thirds (every third note).
Triads form **chords**.
The lowest note, known as the root note, determines the name of the triad.
A triad can be built upon any scale tone.

An interval is the distance from one note to another,
Each note has a name and a sound.



Understanding intervals is a very important part of music. Intervals occur simultaneously, as in a chord, as well as in melodies. With practice, ANYBODY can identify intervals.