

So you want to become a guitar player?

Lesson 2 of 3: Scale Theory

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In our last session we learned that in the musical alphabet there are naturally occurring whole steps that occur between each of the seven notes. Two exceptions to this rule are half steps that occur between the E and F and the B and C notes. (remember whole steps skip one fret and half steps are right next to each other)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
Whole Step	Half Step	Whole Step	Whole Step	Half Step	Whole Step	Whole Step	

If we want to construct a Major scale we need to arrange the half and whole steps in a specific order. In the major scale , half steps occur between the 3rd & 4th and the 7th & 8th degrees . Between all other degrees there is a whole step. The quality of any scale is determined by the distribution of half and whole steps above the tonic or first note.

Major Scale :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Whole Step	Whole Step	Half Step	Whole Step	Whole Step	Whole Step	Half Step	

Lets construct a C Major scale:

1	w	2	w	3	H	4	w	5	w	6	w	7	H	8
C		D		E		F		G		A		B		C

Lets try F Major:

F G A B \flat C D E F

Remember :

sharps are up a 1/2 step in any given key, and b flats are down 1/2 step in any given key.

F to G is a whole step, G to A is a whole step , A to B \flat is a half step , B \flat to C is a whole step , C to D is a whole step , D to E is a whole step , E to F is a half step.

Do this in every key so you know all the notes in every major scale.

The next thing you need to do is learn to play these scales on the guitar.

You should know seven positions for each major scale . Go to my web site

www.georgecollichio.com and click on the school link for the complete shapes of the major scales. Practice them over and over till you have them completely memorized in every key. Next time we will learn how to improvise with them.

George Collichio is a national recording artist. With eight CDs to his credit he regularly tours Southern California and other parts of the country doing concerts and guitar clinics. He also does studio work in California and Nashville. George is fully endorsed by Whirlwind and uses Whirlwind DIs and Leader cables exclusively during the performances and workshops that he conducts around the country. He is the owner of Collichio School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. with over 300 students and has a Bachelors Degree in Guitar Performance from the State University of New York.

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