

Major & Minor Scales (Diatonic Scale)

In music, a diatonic scale is any heptatonic (7 tones) scale that has **five whole steps (whole-tones) separations and two half steps (semi-tones) separations per octave**.

A major scale octave consists of 7 tones which are named after the seven letters of the musical alphabet, (A, B, C, D, E, F, G). The major scale can begin with any letter of the alphabet but must follow in sequence (C, D, E, F, G, A, B).

On the Ukulele whole-tones would be a separation of two frets while semi-tones would be a separation of one fret.

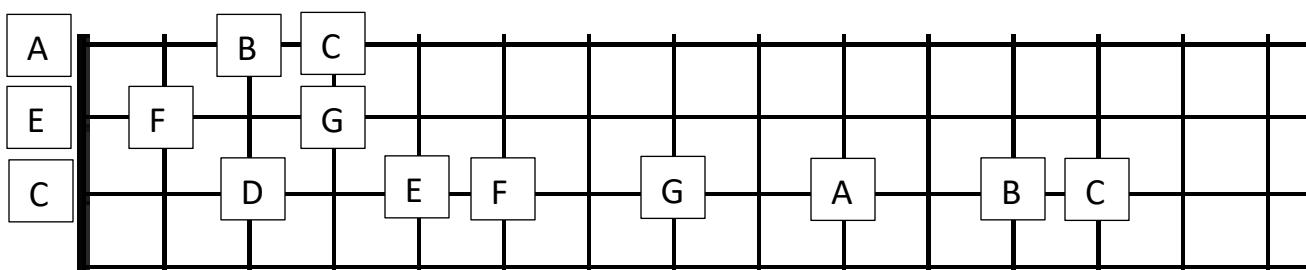
Remember a diatonic scale has 5 Whole-tones and 2 semi-tones separations.

These separations can be positioned anywhere within the group of 7 tones and will still be a diatonic scale.

Example: The “Major Diatonic Scale” would have the separations (W, W, H, W, W, W, H), whereas a “Minor Diatonic Scale” would have the separations (W, H, W, W, H, W, W).

Location of the five whole-tones separations and two semi-tones separations are specific to the scale used. To be called a Major Scale, the tones need to be in a particular order (W, W, H, W, W, W, H).

The “C Major Scale” is the only major diatonic scale without sharps or flats, all others would have at least 1 sharp or flat and/or possibly up to 7 sharps or flats



Remember: To be a “Diatonic Scale”, the scale needs five (5) whole steps and two (2) half steps. The order is not important, but it needs 5 and 2, that is important.

Root (1)	2	3	4	5	6	7	Octave (8)
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#	B
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#	E
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G

Basic Major Diatonic Scales (A through G)

Minor Scale (Diatonic Scale)

To create a relative minor scale of a major scale, use the same notes but begin the minor scale at the 6th note of the major scale which will give the following formula (W, H, W, W, W, H, W, W).

Root (1)	2	3	4	5	6	7	Octave (8)
F#	G#	A	B	C#	D	E	F#
G#	A#	B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
B	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B
C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#
D	E	F	G	A	Bb	C	D
E	F#	G	A	B	C	D	E

Basic Minor Diatonic Scales (F# through E)