Theory and Application

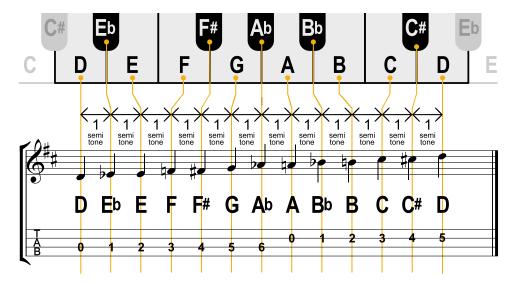


Scales 1. What is a Scale?

A SCALE is simply a way of dividing the distance between a note and the same note repeated an octave higher. There are lots of different ways of doing this, and the first way is with twelve equal steps, which is called

a *chromatic scale*. On the mandolin, you would be playing every fret within an octave. The intervals between the notes are called *semitones*, (or *half tones*), so there are twelve semitones between a note and its octave.

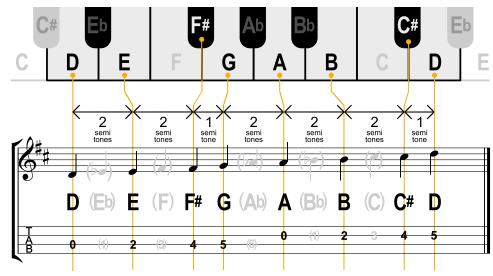
The D Chromatic Scale



THE MOST COMMON scale is called the major scale, and it really is the foundation of our musical history. For 200 years after Bach, almost all classical music was based on the major scale (and to a lesser extent the *minor*

scale). The "formula" for the major scale is a mixture of intervals of two semitones (also called *a tone*) and one semitone: 2-2-1-2-2-1. That sequence gives us what we know as the major scale.

The D Major Scale



We're going to use the D major scale to explore various aspects of scales in music. It's a good idea to use scales in your practice routine, and to be able to play them without looking at the music.

