

# MUSIC THEORY COURSE – Module 1

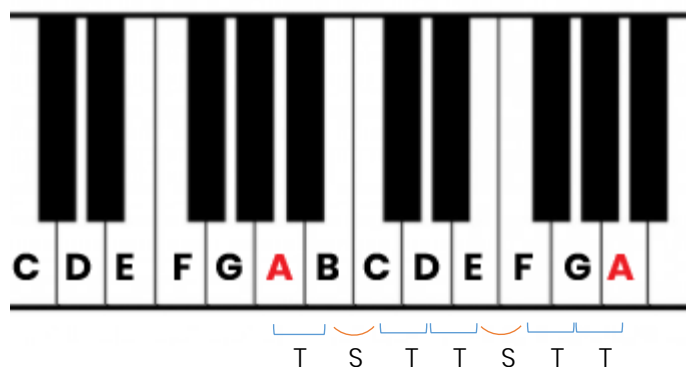
## Minor and Major Scales

A scale is a sequence of notes organized in ascending or descending order. In theory, a scale starts on a fundamental (or root) note – which gives the name to the scale – and ends on that same note, as well. For instance:

A scale – A B C D E F G A

C scale – C D E F G A B C

A quick reminder: as you have learned earlier, the distance between the notes varies according to the existent semitones. Between E – F and B – C there is an absence of a black key, as you can see below and for that reason each type of scale has its own structure.



There are plenty of scales to learn but in this lesson we start with the most simple scales – the minor and major scales.

1. The first step is to choose which set of notes we are going to use.
2. After defining the fundamental note and consequently the scale, we must choose the type of scale: minor or major.

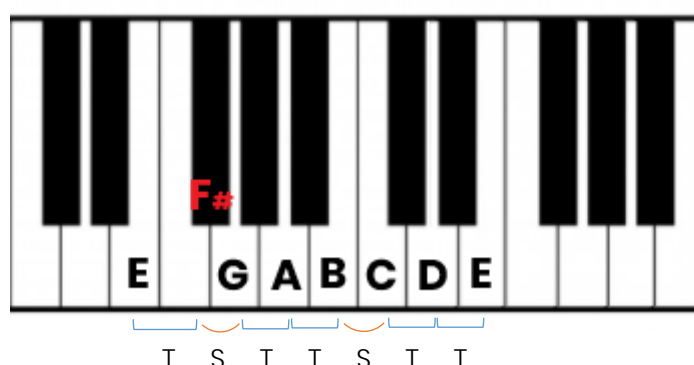
## Minor Scale

The minor scale is always associated to a low energy atmosphere, sadness, melancholy and dramatism. Above you can see the A minor scale, which only uses the white keys of the piano, and below you can see the intervals between the notes of any minor scale:



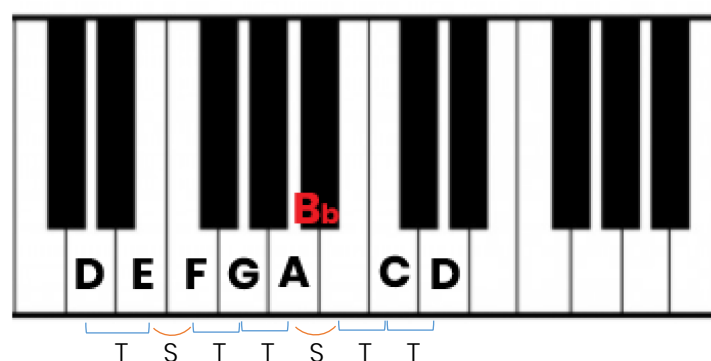
By using this pattern you can make any scale you wish to.

**E minor**, for example:



On this scale playing only white keys from E until E wouldn't correspond to the original structure of the scale therefore we have to adjust the interval between E and F (which is a semitone) to E and F# (whole tone).

**D minor**:

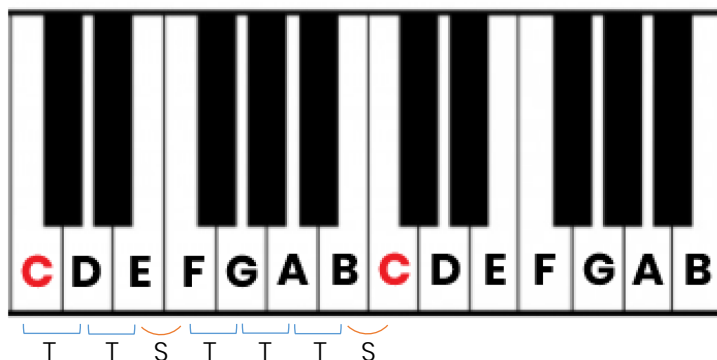


**Tone – Semitone – Tone – Tone – Semitone – Tone – Tone**

In this case the scale must be adjusted too, but instead of using a # (sharp) the note B gets a b (flat) in order to follow the pattern of the minor scale mentioned above.

## Major Scale

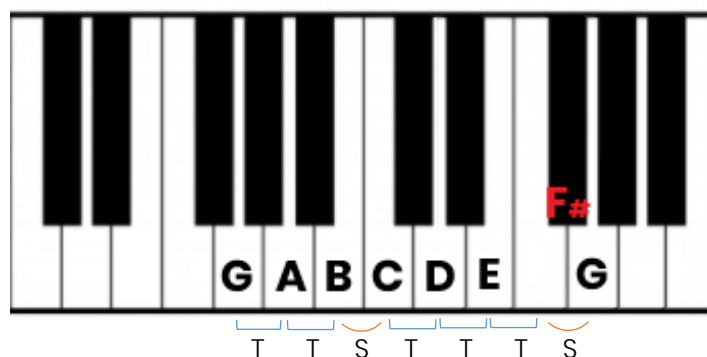
The major scale has a positive energy, it can represent happiness, relaxation, joy and excitement. The C Major scale, just as A minor, uses solely white keys and has its own structure too.



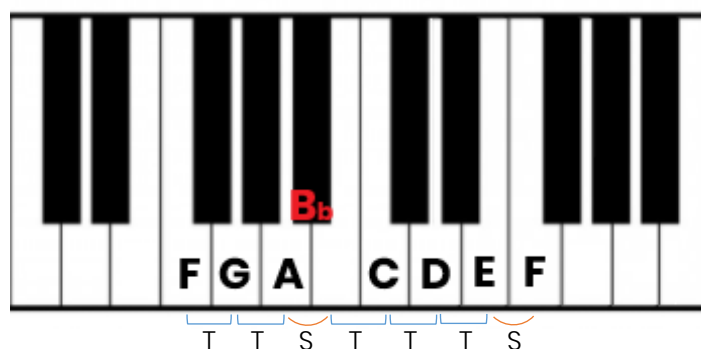
Here is the structure of a major scale:



### G Major



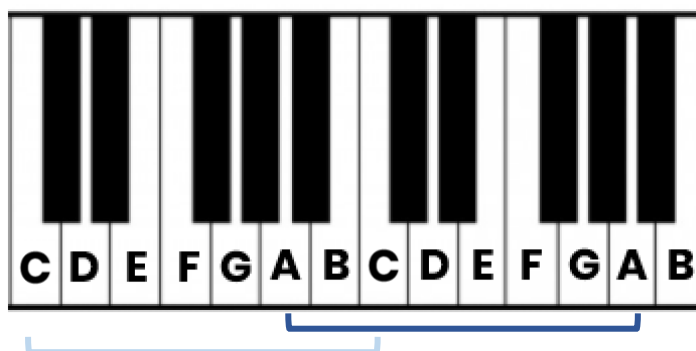
### F Major



## Relative Scales

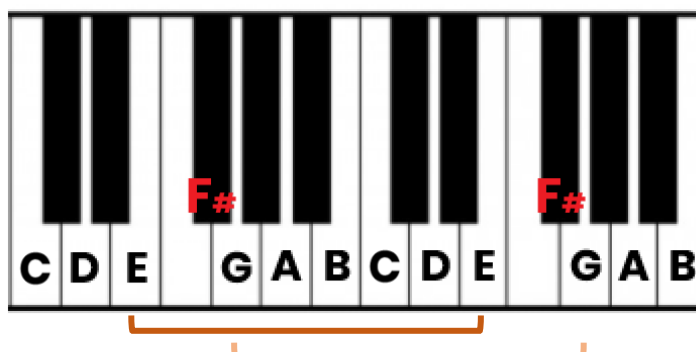
Each major scale has a relative minor scale and vice-versa. Relative scales have different structures (according to their type, as you've seen earlier) but they share the same group of notes and accidentals.

C Major - A minor



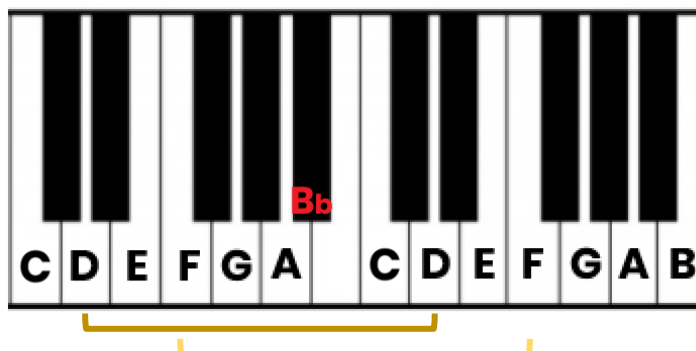
Both scales use the white keys of the piano. C Major and A minor have no accidentals.

G Major - E minor



G Major and E minor use an F# (sharp) within their structure.

F Major - D minor



F Major and D minor use an Bb (flat) according to their respective semitones distribution.

## Summary

The theory behind the scales is definitely complicated so I created a step-by-step process that will help you to build a scale and ease the understanding of the structure of each of these scales.

**1. Choose a root note** – D

**2. Write all the notes of the scale** – D E F G A B C D

**3. Define the type of scale** – minor

**4. Tones and Semitones** – T S T T S T T (minor scale)

**5. Adjusting the scale** – Add the sharps or flats