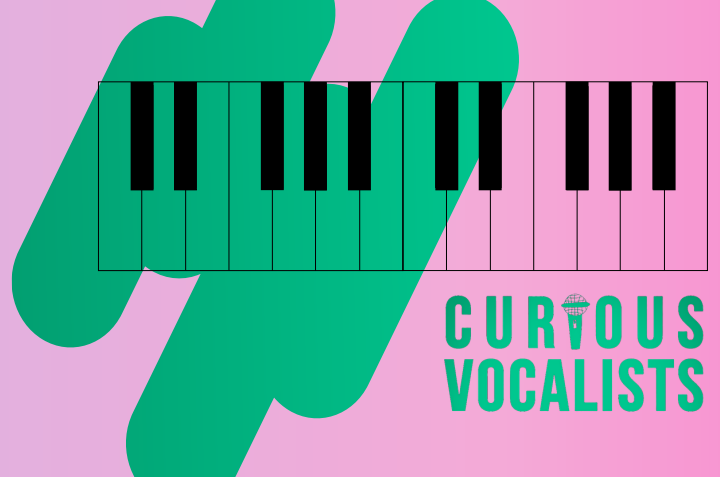


THE 12 MAJOR KEYS ON PIANO



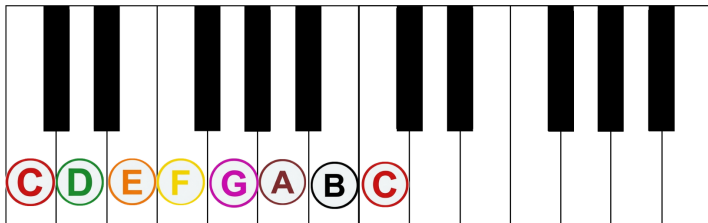
Introduction to Piano Scales

This guide provides a visual representation of the notes in all 12 major scales on the piano. Each major scale follows a specific pattern of whole (W) and half (H) steps: W-W-H-W-W-W-H. This pattern results in a unique set of white and black keys for each key signature.

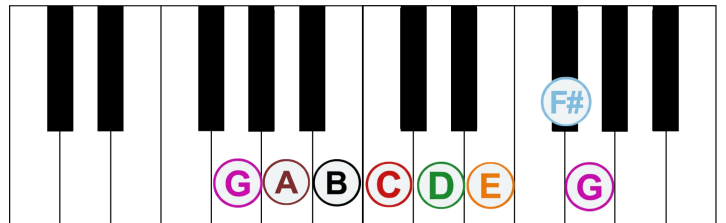
You'll notice that each of the black keys have two potential names: It could be the sharp (#) of the white key below it, or the flat (b) of the white key above it.

The 12 Major Scales

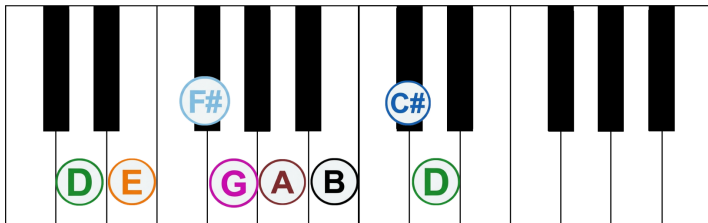
C Major



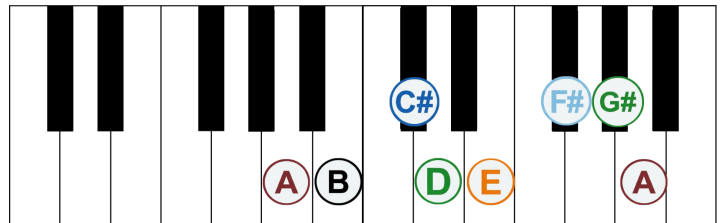
G Major



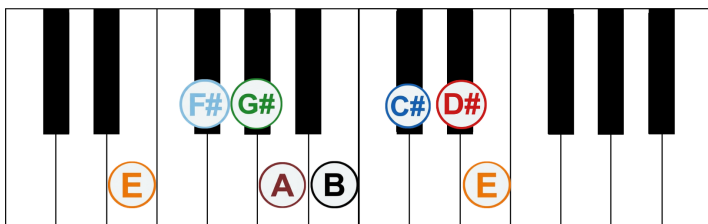
D Major



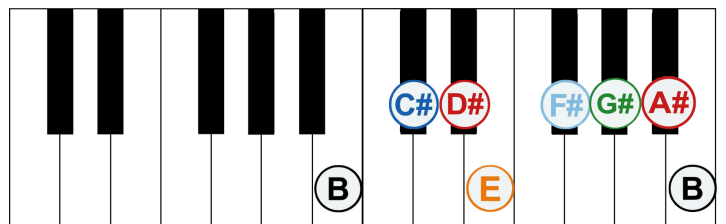
A Major



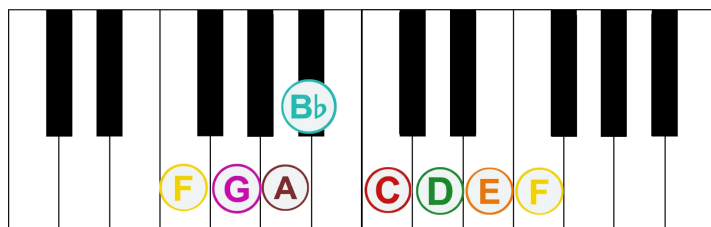
E Major



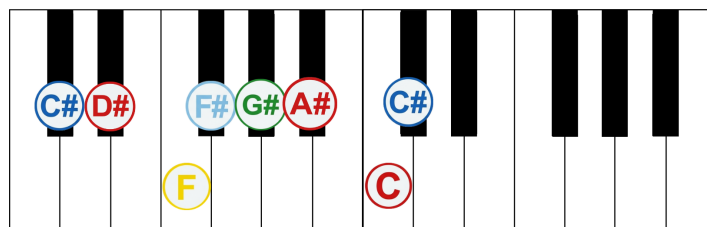
B Major



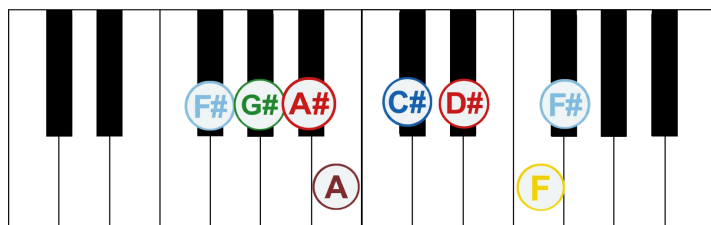
F Major



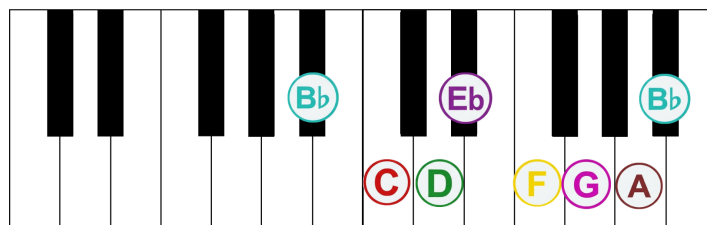
C# Major



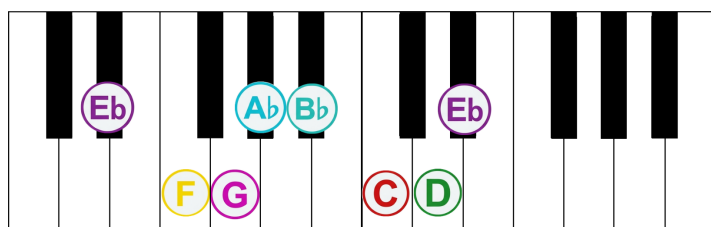
F# Major



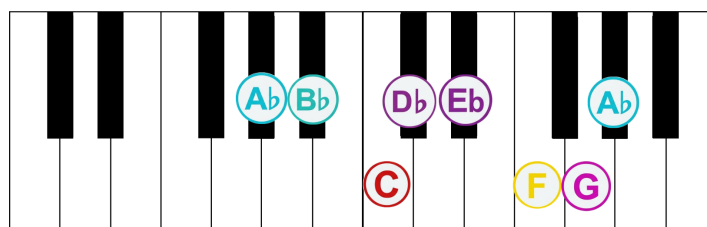
Bb Major



Eb Major



Ab Major



How to Use these Scales to Make Chords

- All chords are usually made up of 3 notes played at the same time.
- Play the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes of any of these scales to make the chord.
- Eg: the C Major Chord is C E and G of the C Major scale

Next Steps

- **PRACTISE** - play each of these major scales slowly and deliberately. Try to identify the root note (1st), the 3rd and the 5th note of each scale as you play them.
- **INVERSIONS** - to broaden your sound palette, try inversions of the chords: mix up the arrangement of the 1st 3rd and 5th notes. They can be in any order on the piano, the chord will stay the same but it will have slightly different qualities to it depending on which of the three notes is at the bottom. This video explains it well: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xuug8DtUy_g
- **MINOR CHORDS** - minor chords can be worked out in the same way from the minor scales. If you know all your major scales, you've automatically learnt your minor scales too.

Every minor scale shares its notes with its relative major scale. Eg: to find A minor's relative major scale, count 3 semitones up from A - (Bb, B, C) = C major. So A minor shares all the same notes as C major (but this time the scale will start and end on A instead of C). So the A minor *chord* will be the 1st (A), 3rd (C) and 5th (E) of that minor scale.