

# THE MAJOR (diatonic) SCALE

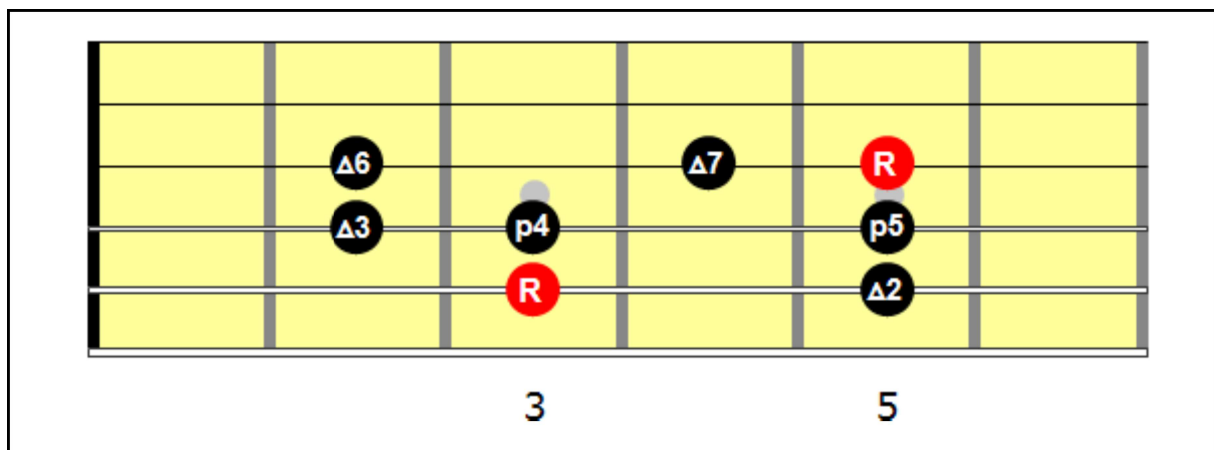
Eg: the **C MAJOR SCALE**

**STANDARD NOTATION and TABLATURE**

**The Major (diatonic) Scale**

The image shows the C Major scale in standard notation and guitar tablature. The standard notation is on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, showing the notes C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, and C5. The guitar tablature is on a six-string staff, starting on the open strings (E2, A2, D3, G2, B2, E3) and ascending to the 5th fret on the high E string (C5). The notes are: E2 (open), A2 (open), D3 (open), G2 (open), B2 (open), E3 (open), F3 (3rd fret, D string), G3 (5th fret, E string), A3 (2nd fret, F string), B3 (3rd fret, G string), C4 (5th fret, A string), D4 (2nd fret, B string), E4 (4th fret, C string), F4 (5th fret, D string), G4 (2nd fret, E string), A4 (4th fret, F string), B4 (5th fret, G string), and C5 (5th fret, high E string).

## FRETBOARD DIAGRAM



This is the most important scale in all of music. It is the DNA of western music.

## IT'S PRACTICAL!

Practice it on the fret-board as a finger exercise.

Use your INDEX finger in the 2nd fret, middle finger in the 3rd, ring finger in the 4th and pinkie in the 5th.

## IT HELPS WITH THEORY!

Understanding this scale can help you understand:

- Intervals (pitch distance between any 2 notes).

- Scale chords (chords come from scales!).
- Diatonic melody.

**LEARN THE INTERVAL PATTERN! (It's important).**

**T - T - S - T - T - T - S**  
 I        ii        iii        iv        v        vi        vii        viii (i)

Where T = tone (or whole tone, a movement of 2 frets along any one string).  
 And S = semitone (as you probably guessed, a 1 fret move).

In other words, there is a whole tone separating the 1st and 2nd notes, and the 2nd and 3rd.  
 There is a semitone between the 3rd and 4th, etc.

**TRY PLAYING THE SCALE IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS!**

EG Start from the 5th fret (of the same string) for a D major scale.

You could start from the 3rd fret of the bottom string for a G major scale (playing this shape from the low E or A strings will not require you to change the shape of the scale, however starting from the D or G strings will).

AND ENJOY! :)