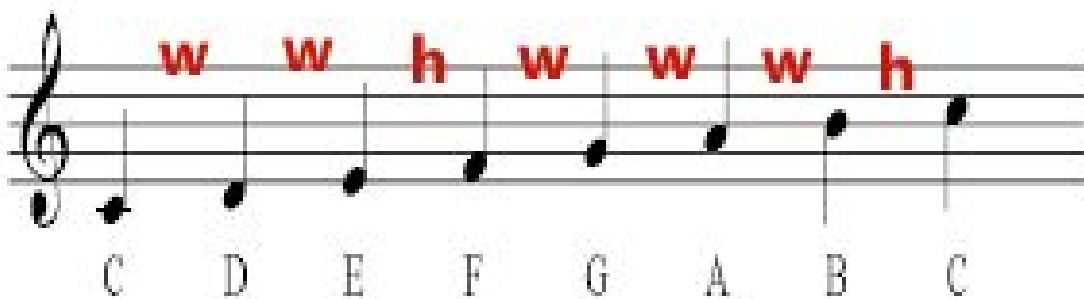


Major Scale

A major scale is a **diatonic** (through tones) scale with a specific scheme: The sequence of intervals between the notes of a major scale is: whole (w), whole (w), half (h), whole (w), whole (w), whole (w), half (h):



C- major is the easiest major scale to play because all you have to do is start on a C and play all the white notes up the keyboard until you reach the next C up. The good news is that this combination of semitone and tone steps is actually a set pattern that every major scale follows. If you number the tones from 1-8 the half tone steps of a major scale will be 3-4 and 7-6.

There are 12 major scales in our tonal system. Each of the 12 tones within an octave can be the starting point (Tonic) of a major scale.

C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B

The name **major** comes from the size of the interval of the first 3 tones C-D-E which is called a big (major) third as opposed to a small (minor) third when looking at the C-**minor** scale: C-D-Eb

Also compare the following terms: **Key** and **Key Signature**