

# Spelling Major Scales

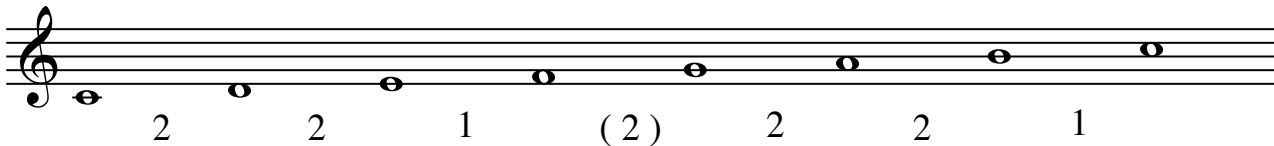
There are two easy ways to spell minor scales.

## USING HALF STEPS:

The following pattern will spell ANY major scale. Notice that if you divide the scale in half, the two halves use the SAME interval pattern (2-2-1). Two half steps separate the two halves of the scale:

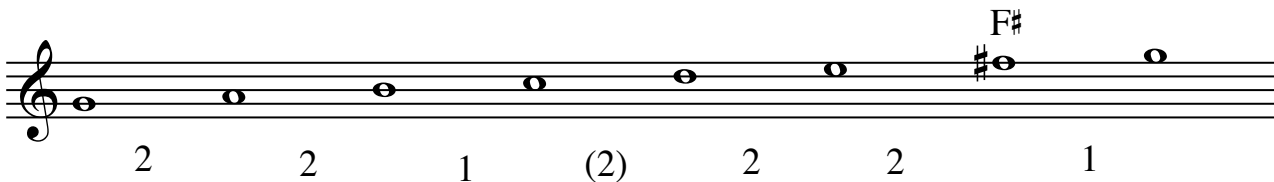
2 -2 -1 (2) 2 - 2- 1

For example, to spell a C major scale, begin on C and use the pattern:



ALL MAJOR SCALES are spelled using this pattern!

Since both halves of the Major scale use the same pattern, we can spell a new Major scale beginning on G (the second half of the C Major scale), which is five letter names above C:



Notice that we have added one sharp # to the scale. If we repeat this pattern and go up five more letter names, we begin a Major scale on D and add one more sharp #:



This process up moving five letters names is called the circle of fifths. If we move up by fifths we add one more sharp with each scale. If we move down by fifths, we add one more flat with each scale. **Refer back to the Major Key Signatures page and you will see that this process of spelling scales by going up or down a fifth yields the exact order of the sharp and flat key signatures:** C Major has no sharps, G major has F #, D Major has F# and C#, etc. Down a fifth from C Major is F Major, which has one flat (B $\flat$ ), down another fifth is B $\flat$  Major , which has two flats (B $\flat$  and E $\flat$ ), etc.