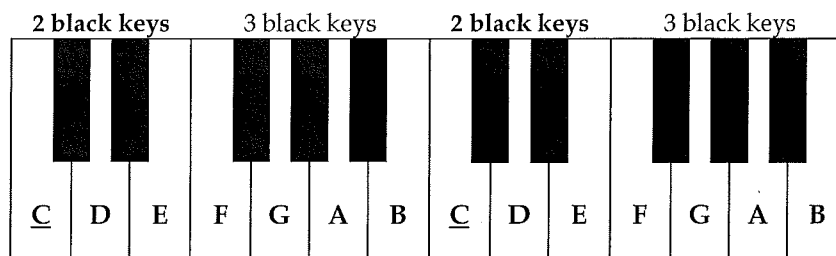


Section 1.2

THE CHROMATIC SCALE AND THE PIANO

Pattern of the piano keyboard

This section uses the piano, but the concepts apply to other instruments and voice also. The piano repeats a pattern: groups of two black keys alternate with groups of three. Every white key just to the left of a group of two black keys is labeled as C. After G, the letter names start over with A.



Half step

A **half step** is the distance from one piano key to the next closest (whether it happens to be white or black). E to F is a half step, because E and F are next to one another. Similarly, B to C is a half step. E to F and B to C are the only **natural half steps** because they use letter names without accidentals.

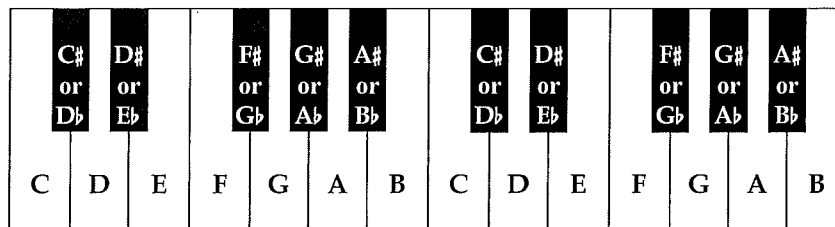
Natural half steps

Accidentals

The black keys use the letter of an adjacent white key plus a modifier called an **accidental**. The most common accidentals are:

Flat, natural, sharp

1. **b = flat**; one half step **lower than** (left of) a white key
2. **♮ = natural**; cancels other accidentals; indicates white notes on a piano
3. **# = sharp**; one half step **higher than** (right of) a white key



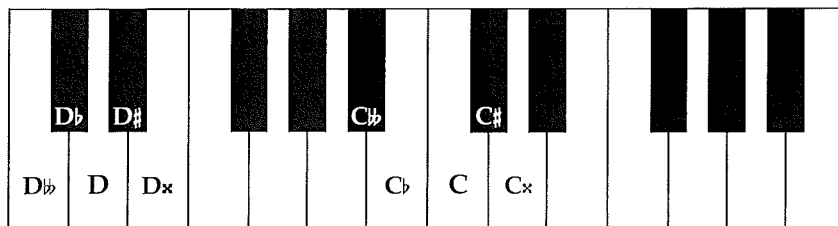
Enharmonic notes

Enharmonic notes are different names for the same piano key. For example, the black key called C sharp is one half step above C, but also one half step below D. C sharp is **enharmonic** with D flat. White keys also have enharmonic names: B raised one half step with a sharp is the white key C.

Double flat

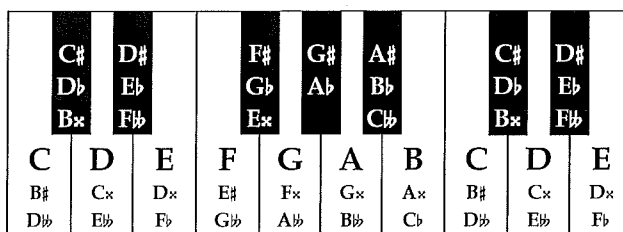
Double sharps

A **double flat** lowers a flat note by another half step, keeping the same letter name. Double flats are thus two half steps **lower** than the white key (natural) note. Similarly, a **double sharp** (looks like an x) raises a sharp note by another half step, keeping the same letter name. Double sharps are two half steps **higher** than the white key (natural) note.



All enharmonics

The piano keyboard below shows all the enharmonic names for the keys.



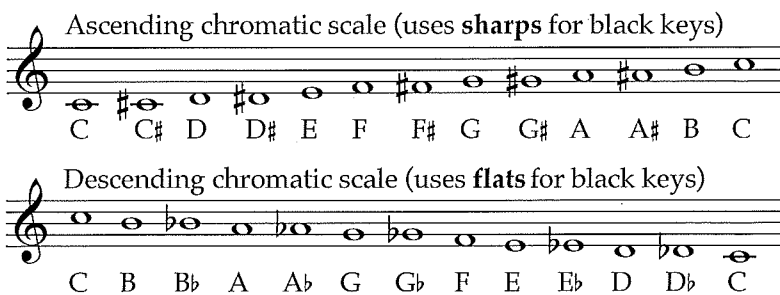
Whole step

A **whole step** is two half steps. For instance, for C up to D, the two half steps are C to C# and C# to D.

Scale

Chromatic scale

A **scale** (from the Italian word for ladder) is a series of notes from low to high (or high to low) following some pattern of whole steps and half steps. A **chromatic scale** lists all the notes (white and black keys) in order, usually from C to the next C above or below. Chromatic scales use only half steps. **Ascending** chromatic scales use **sharps** for black piano keys. **Descending** chromatic scales use **flats** for black piano keys.

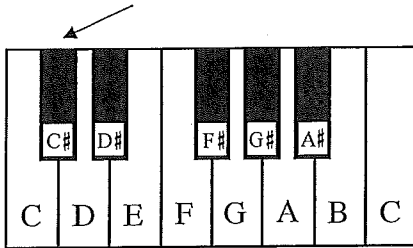


Sharps and Flats I

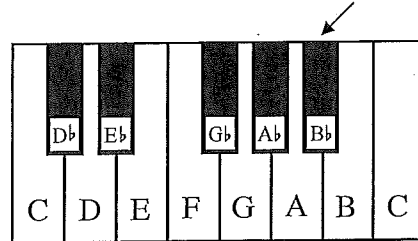
A **sharp** sign (#) placed in front of a note (♯) raises its pitch a half step.

A **flat** sign (b) placed in front of a note (♭) lowers its pitch a half step.

C# is 1/2 step higher than C



Bb is 1/2 step lower than B

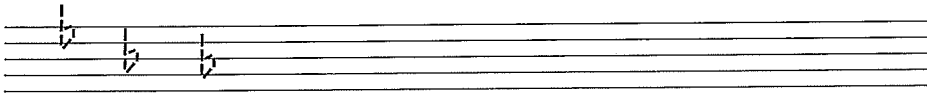


It is easy to see, on the piano keyboard, how the black keys to the right (1/2 step higher) of a note are sharps and the black keys to the left (1/2 step lower) of a note are flats.

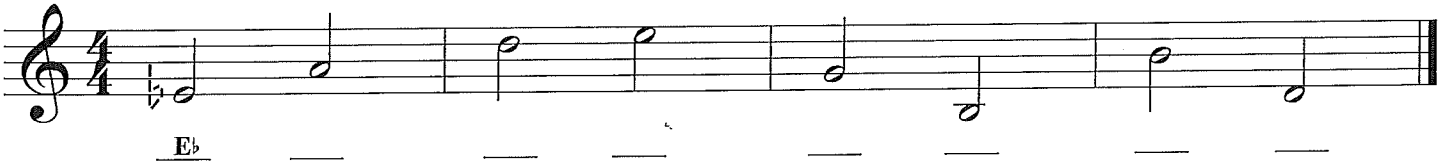
1. Practice drawing sharps by tracing over the guidelines. Draw six more in the remaining space.



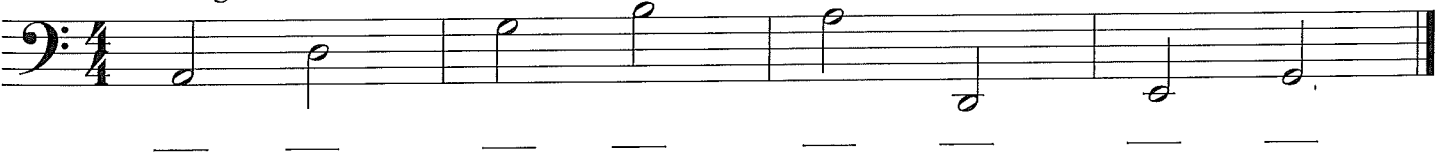
2. Practice drawing flats by tracing over the guidelines. Draw six more in the remaining space.



3. Write a flat sign in front of each note and then name the note.



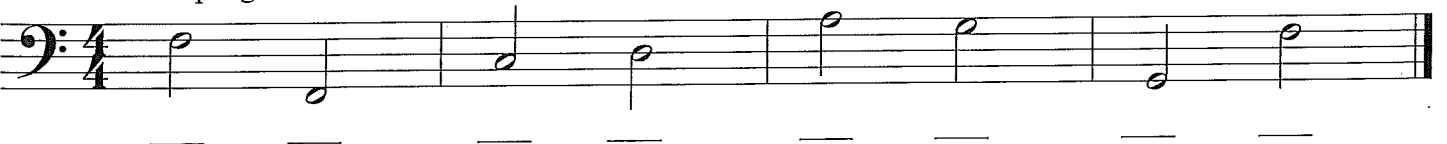
4. Write a flat sign in front of each note and then name the note.



5. Write a sharp sign in front of each note and then name the note.

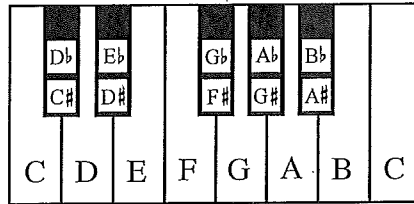


6. Write a sharp sign in front of each note and then name the note.



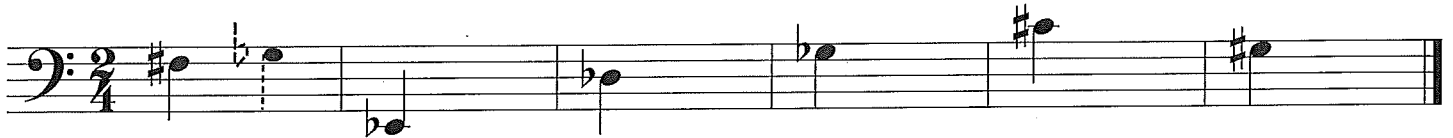
Enharmonic Notes I

In music there are many notes that have more than one name.
Enharmonic notes sound the same but are spelled differently.



If you look at a piano keyboard you will see that D# and Eb are played with the same key.

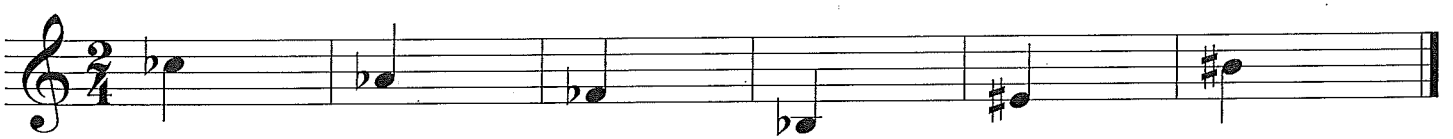
1. Use a quarter note to write in the enharmonic equivalent of the given note.



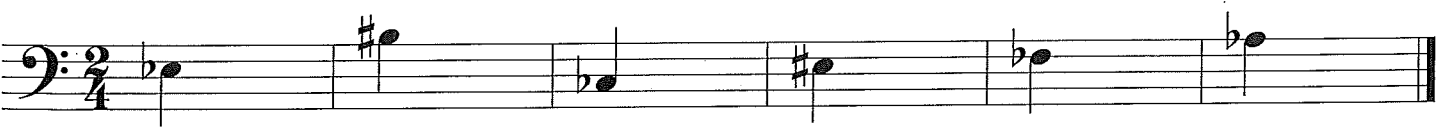
2. Use a quarter note to write in the enharmonic equivalent of the given note.



3. Use a quarter note to write in the enharmonic equivalent of the given note.



4. Use a quarter note to write in the enharmonic equivalent of the given note.



5. This is the first part of a familiar song written with many enharmonic notes.

Identify the song and write the name here: _____

