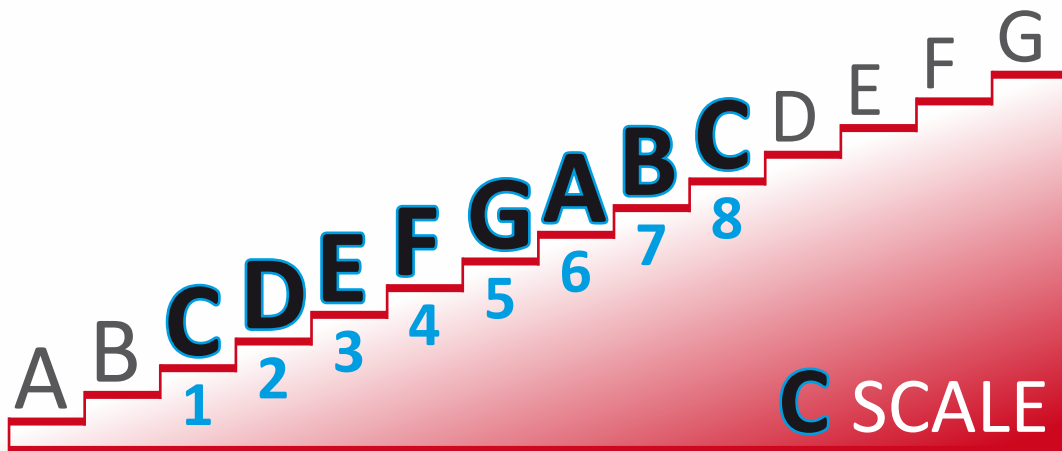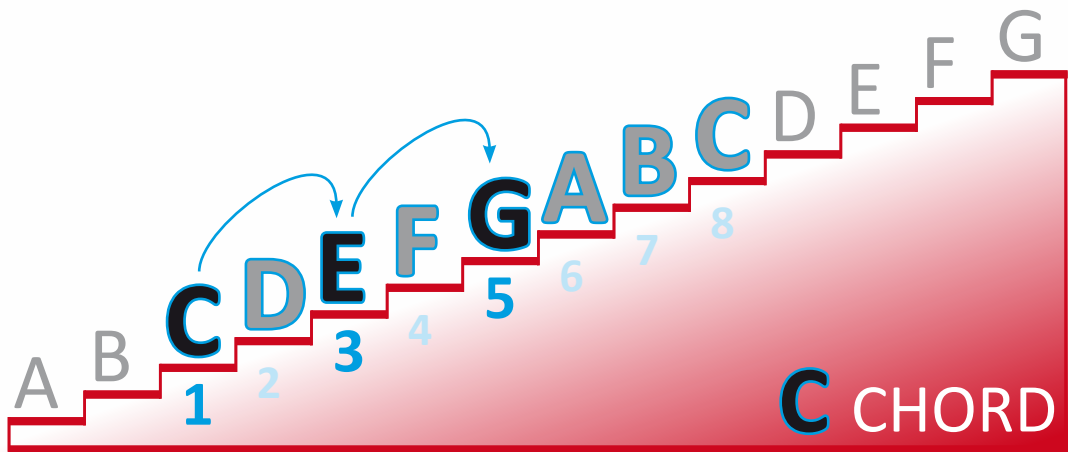# SCALES & CHORDS

C Scale: C D E F G A B C

Starting on C, count up the alphabet until G, then start again with A.

In music, a **SCALE** consists of 8 steps, called **TONES**.

Steps 1 and 8 are the same tone, with an **OCTAVE** (=8 steps) inbetween.
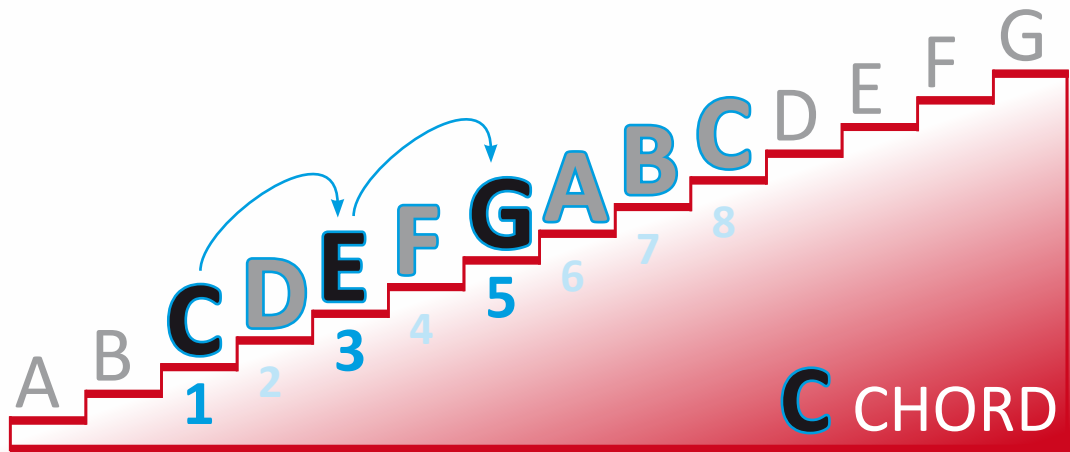

CHORDs are based on **TRIADs**.

To find the basic triad of a scale, use **steps 1, 3 and 5.**

To play the whole chord, add step 8 which is the same as step one with an octave inbetween.

So, the **C chord** is **C E G +C**

CHORDS & ACCOMPANIMENT

A B **C** D **E** F **G** A B **C** D E F G

5

1 2 **3** 4 **5** 6 7 8

C CHORD

How to evaluate Chords for Accompaniment:

1. Notate steps 1 to 7 in Roman letters.
2. Write the notes of the scale unterneath.
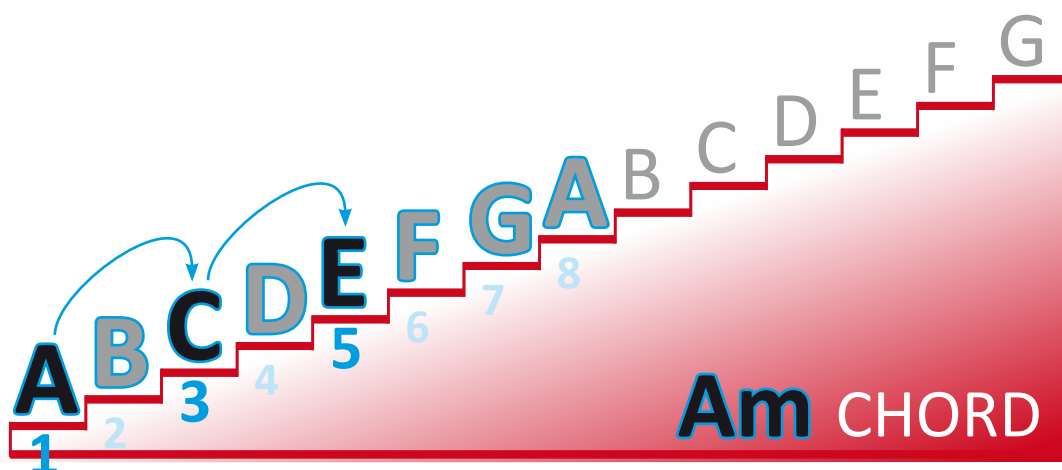3. Copy steps 1, 3, and 5 under position I.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
C	D	**E**	F	**G**	A	B
E						
G						

4. Add the notes of the scale, now starting on the respective note.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
E → F	G	A	B	C	D	
G → A	B	C	D	E	F	

5. Check for the main chords no. I, IV, and V, to accompany your piece of music.

Step	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Tones of the chord	**C**	D	E	F	G	A	B
	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
	G	A	B	C	D	E	F
Chord name	**C**	Dm	Em	**F**	**G**	Am	(B^{dim})

Am CHORD

How to evaluate Chords for Accompaniment:

1. Notate steps 1 to 7 in Roman letters.
2. Write the notes of the scale unterneath.
3. Copy steps 1, 3, and 5 under position I.
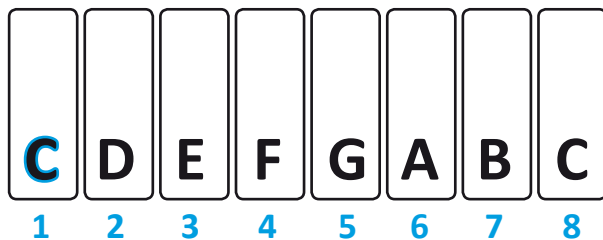
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
C						
E						

4. Add the notes of the scale, now starting on the respective note.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
E	F	G	A	B	C	D

5. Check for the main chords no. I, IV, and V, to accompany your piece of music.

Step	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Tones of the chord	**A**	B	C	D	E	F	G
	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
Chord name	**Am**	(B^{dim})	C	**Dm**	**Em**	F	G

Various Scales on Chime Bars (Xylophone)

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

C scale (no sharps # or flats ♭):

C D E F G A B C

main chords: **C** (CEG), **F** (FAC), **G** (GBD)
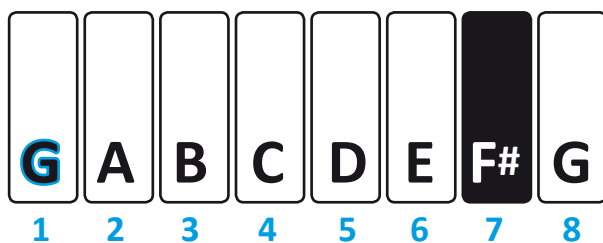
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

G scale (1 sharp #):

G A B C D E F# G

main chords: **G** (GBD), **C** (CEG), **D** (DF#A)
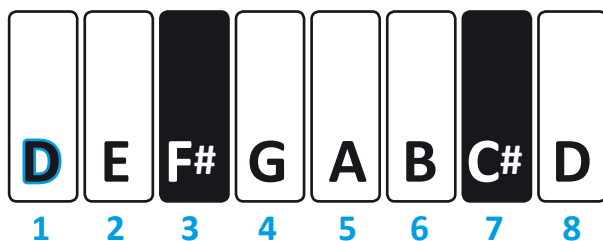
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

D scale (2 sharps #):

D E F# G A B C# D

main chords: **D** (DF#A), **G** (GBD), **A** (AC#E)
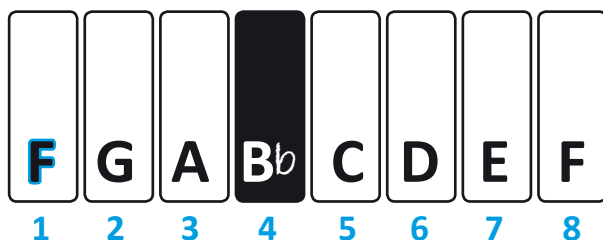
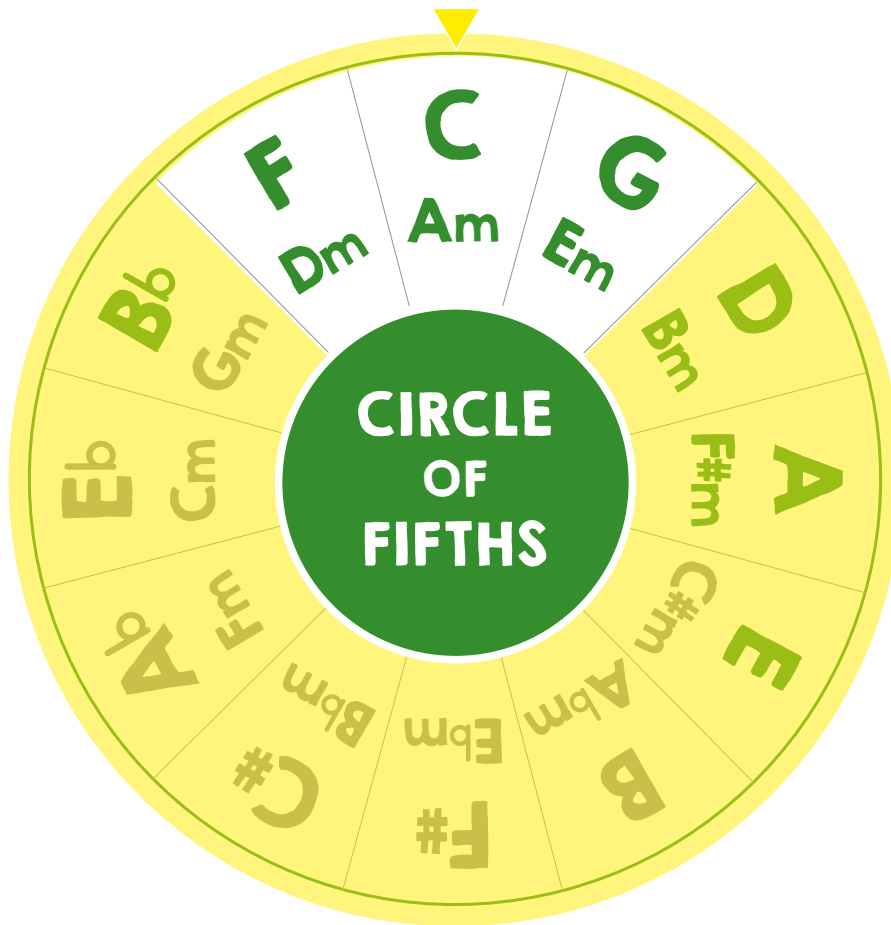| F	G	A	B♭	C	D	E	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

F scale (1 flat ♭):

F G A B♭ C D E F G

main chords: **F** (FAC), **B♭** (B♭DF), **C** (CEG)

Find Chords on the Circle of Fifths

The **CIRCLE OF FIFTHS** provides a system to find the matching **CHORD-FAMILY** to accompany your desired piece of music.

The outer circle displays the **MAJOR CHORDS** with the **RELATIVE MINOR CHORDS** underneath.

Check for the **KEY**, your piece of music i composed in.
Then check for the **neighbouring chords** on its left and right.
This is the set of chords you will need to accompany or even compose.

The circle can be imaginatively turned to display another main chord on top with its matching chord family.

The above example
indicates a music piece in the k**ey of C major** (= main chord, step I)
with Am as relative minor chord.
The neighbour chord on its left is **F major (= step IV)** with Dm as relative minor chord.
The neighbour chord on its right is **G major (= step V)** with Em as relative minor chord,
which can also be played as a Seventh chord (G7) within a perfect cadence.

Circle of Fifths

Circle of Fifths

Circle of Fifths