

**Beats** fundamental pulses at regular intervals

**Tempo** the number of beats per minute

**Measure** A fundamental building block with a single rhythm element.

- Regular chunks of music that have related number of beats, often 4 or 8 beats
- Called **bars** in blues and pop.

**Meter** Beats per some measure of time or how many beats/notes in measure  
Most common: 4 beats per measure marked 4/4

**Form:**

- Directions for repeating parts of a musical piece
- A term that refers to the way sections change or repeat. In *classical* music, for instance:

*Ternary* form means ABA.

*Arch* form means ABCBA

These are long sections, perhaps 10 min

In *blues*:

**Delta** blues AAB

**8-bar** blues A A B A C B A C

**12-bar** blues A A A A B B A A C B A C

These are short sections, one measure

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**Scale** a set of musical notes that sound good together. Often mathematically and culturally set.

*Harmonic Pitch Intervals (Pythagoras)*

$\times 1.26 =$  third note in scale

$\times 1.3 =$  fourth note in scale,  $\times 1.5 =$  fifth

$\times 1.19 =$  minor third

*Frequency Equivalents*

If A = 440, a fifth would be? 660

a fourth would be? 572

**Scale Steps**

A half-step is going to the very next note on a keyboard, like E to F, or F to F#. A whole step is two half-steps, like E to F# or F to G.

**Major Scale**

A major scale is built on these steps...

W W H W W W H

(Whole Whole Half Whole Whole Whole Half)

It is the most common scale, **generally positive**

**Minor Scale** Built on these steps...

W H W W H W W

A slightly less common scale, **generally sad**

**Key**

A starting note for a scale. Also a set of notes in a scale based on that starting note. A pop tune is generally done all in one key. The starting note for the key is usually picked to make the song fit into a singer's favorite or easy range of notes to sing.

Also, C scale is easy to use for digital editors because it is represented by only the white keys on a piano or keyboard.

**Chords and Harmony**

Chords are groups of notes that sound good together. They are built using notes from a scale. For instance in the key of C, a C-major chord is made up of C + E + G. We can make a major chord starting with any note by counting the steps. So a **major chord** is made up of:

Starting note + 4 half-steps + 3 half-steps

A **minor chord** is made up of:

Starting note + 3 half-steps + 4 half-steps

Note only the middle note has changed!

**Sharps and Flats**

Notes that are between the C Scale notes, or,

The black keys on a piano keyboard

Examples:

C sharp (C#) is the next note above C

E flat (Eb) is the next note below E

**Octave** A note at which a scale starts to repeat. In frequency, a note that is either twice the frequency or half the frequency of a second note. **generally harmonious.**

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**Transpose**

Moving musical notes from one key to another.

or...

Moving a note or set of notes up or down together on the scale. Much pop music can be recreated with the same basic rhythmic loops transposed to two other places on the scale.

**Loop Editor** Software like *Acid - Fruity Loops*

- *Garage Band* - and *Traction3*, that uses and repeats building blocks of recorded clips, or sections of synthesized music, to build a song or a sound track.