

SCALES AND MODES

WHAT IS A SCALE?

In music, a scale (Latin “scala”) is a group or series of musical notes collected in ascending and descending order that provides material for or is used to conveniently represent part or all of a musical work, including melody and/or harmony. The identity of a scale is important as the distance between the notes are used to determine the system of chord relationships. In western music, there are three different base types of scales: major scale and two types of minor scales: harmonic and melodic.

RELATIVE MAJOR AND MINOR

A scale is said to be relative to another scale when both scales use the same key signature.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE KEY SIGNATURE AND THE SCALE

The seven basic notes of a scale (C D E F G A B) are notated in the key signature. The key of the piece is generally stated in the title or implied in the piece.