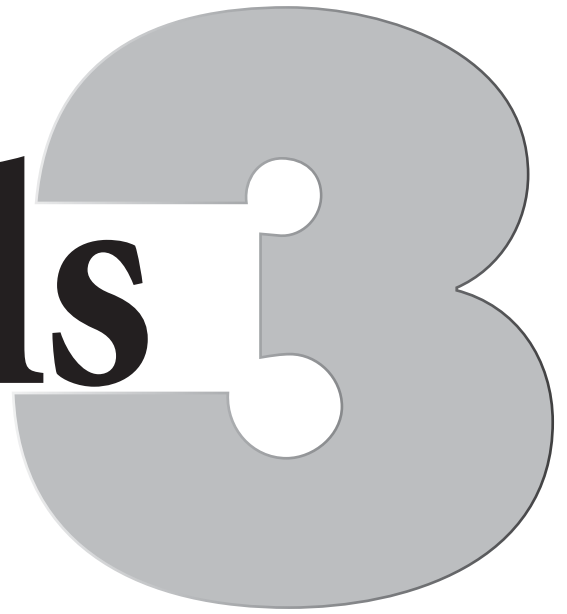


# Intervals



- **What Is An Interval?**
- **Fingering Whole Steps**
- **Fingering Half Steps**
- **Three Ways To Finger Whole And Half Steps**
- **Numbering The Major Scale Tones**
- **Recognizing The Half Steps In the Major Scale**
- **Play A Major Scale On One String**
- **Memorize Seven Major Scale Fingerings**

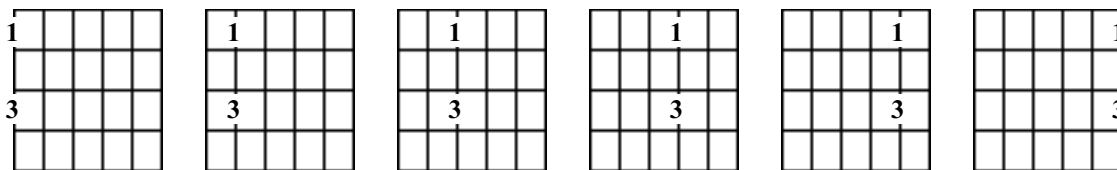
# What Is An Interval?

An interval is a measurement of the difference in pitch between two notes. Intervals are compared to distances between notes in the major scale. Before discussing the major scale, you'll need to know about the units used to measure the distances between its notes. The *whole step* is a standard unit of measurement that indicates (on the guitar) a distance of two frets. The *half step* indicates a distance of one fret.

## Fingering Whole Steps

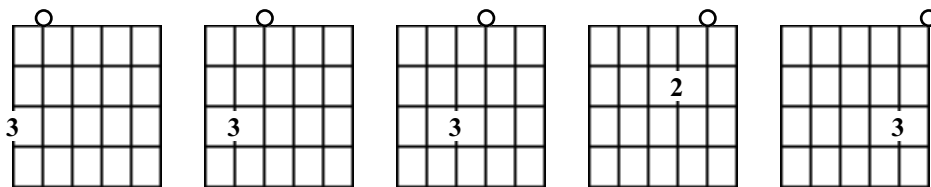
### Whole Steps On A Single String

These can be fretted in any position (anywhere up and down each string). Notice that this fingering is the same for each pair of strings. Of course, the notes could be fretted with any combination of fingers.



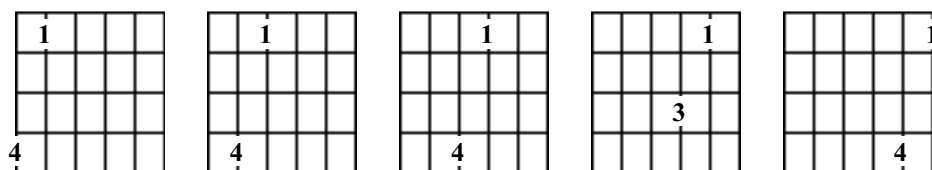
### Whole Steps With One Note On An Open String

This fingering is the same for each pair of strings. The fretted notes could be fretted with any finger.



### Whole Steps Fretted On Each Of Two Adjacent Strings

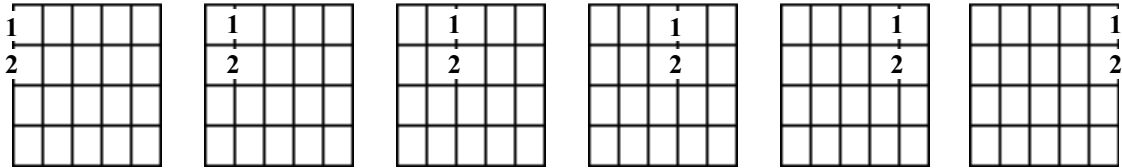
This fingering is the same for each pair of strings *except* the third and second string, where it is fretted with one "empty" fret between the fingers, instead of two. The notes could be fretted with any practical combination of fingers.



# Fingering Half Steps

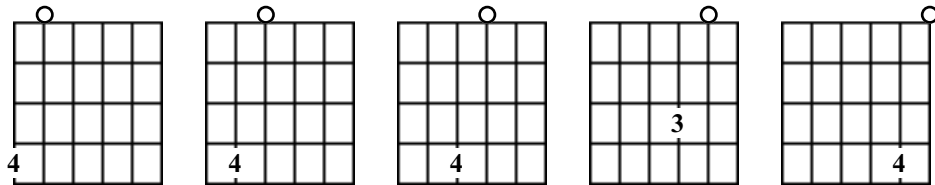
## Half Steps On A Single String

These can be fretted in any position (anywhere up and down each string). Notice that this fingering is the same for each pair of strings. Of course, the notes could be fretted with any combination of fingers.



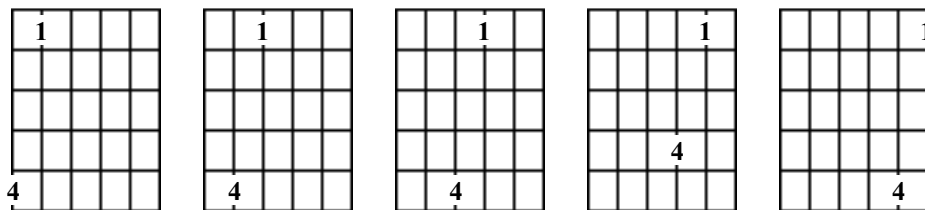
## Half Steps With One Note On An Open String

This fingering is the same for each pair of strings. The fretted notes could be fretted with any finger.



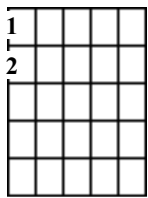
## Half Steps Fretted On Each Of Two Adjacent Strings

This fingering is the same for each pair of strings *except* the third and second string, where it is fretted with two “empty” frets between the fingers, instead of three. The notes could be fretted with any practical combination of fingers.

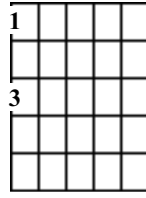


# Three Ways To Finger Half And Whole Steps

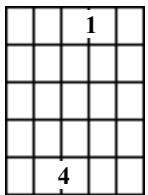
There are three ways to finger half steps and three ways to finger whole steps (not involving open strings):



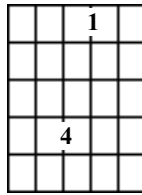
**a half step on one string**  
may be on any string,  
at any position,  
with any fingers



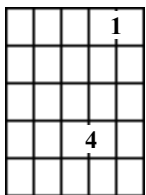
**whole step**  
may be on any string,  
at any position,  
with any fingers



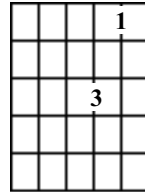
**a half step on two strings**  
may be on adjacent pair of strings  
*except NOT the second and third strings,*  
at any position, with any fingers  
(as long as you can reach!)



**whole step on two strings**  
may be on adjacent pair of strings  
*except NOT the second and third strings,*  
at any position, with any fingers  
(as long as you can reach!)



**a half step on two strings**  
the unique fingering  
on the second and third strings,  
at any position, with any fingers



**whole step on two strings**  
the unique fingering  
on the second and third strings,  
at any position,  
with any fingers

## Numbering The Major Scale Tones

In the solfeggio system, the intervals of the major scale are labeled with the syllables “do, re, me, fa, sol, la, ti”. Here is a C major scale, played in the first position (with the first finger at the first fret) and labeled both with the solfeggio syllables and the numbers 1 through 7:

letter names: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 1 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
 solfeggio: do re me fa sol la ti do do ti la sol fa me re do

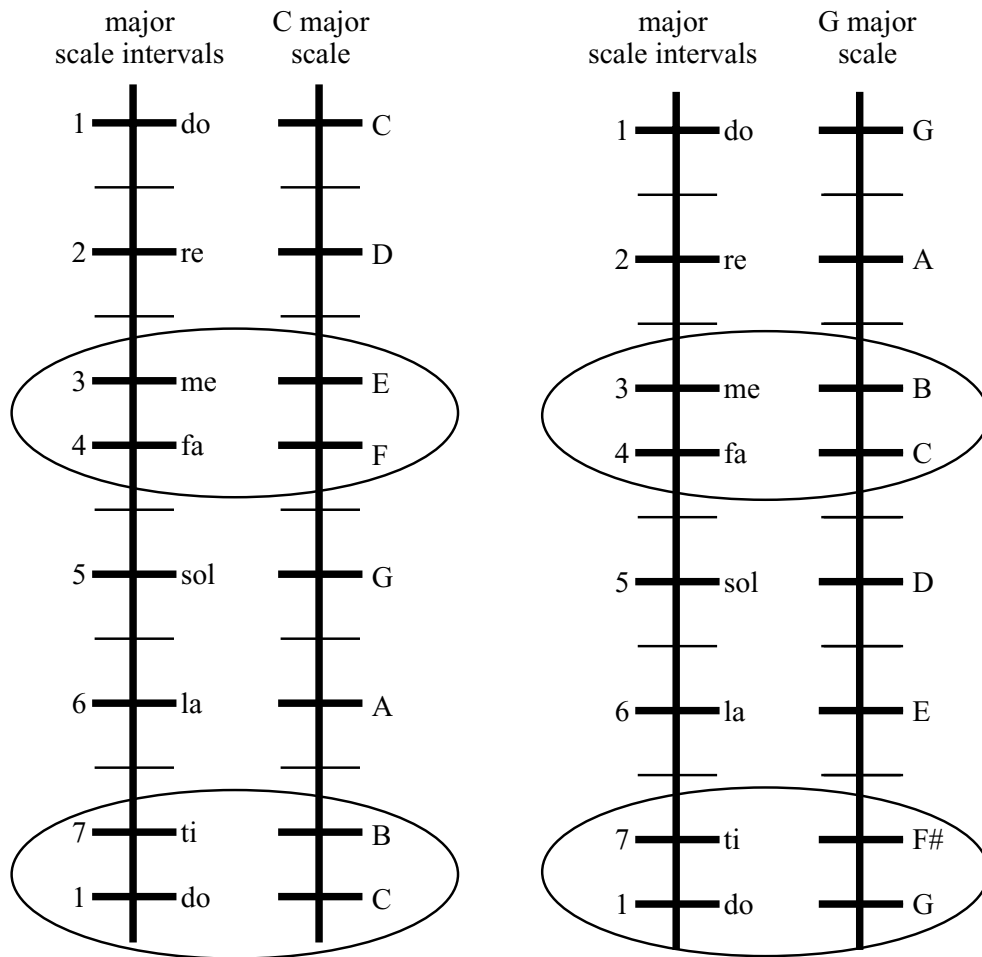
T 4  
 A 4  
 B 4

3 0 2 3 0 2 0 1 1 0 2 0 3 2 0 3

# Recognizing The Location Of The Half Steps In The Major Scale

In making up major scale fingerings, you should think of the notes by number, one through seven. Be aware that the half steps (one fret intervals) occur between numbered major scale tones 3 and 4 and between 7 and 1 (ascending in pitch). These scale steps are circled in the example above. The remaining steps of the major scale are whole steps apart, which include the intervals between the following pairs of numbered scale tones: “1 to 2”, “2 to 3”, “4 to 5”, “5 to 6” and “6 to 7”.

The intervals between the numbered tones of the major scale were illustrated earlier in the section on Major Scale Intervals, using the “string diagrams” shown below.



## Play A Major Scale On One String

This is an E major scale, named after “E”, the note on which it begins and ends. A traditional set of names for the notes of a major scale is “do, re, me, fa, sol, la, ti, do.” The eighth note has the same name as the first one and is referred to as being an *octave* higher than the first note. Speak their names of the notes below as you play them.

The tones of the major scale can also be labeled with the numbers “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 1”. Again, the eighth note has the same name as the first one and is called an octave. Speak the numbers as you play the notes.

Notice that the distance between the tones are whole steps, except half steps between “3” and “4” and between “7” and “1” (where “1” begins the next octave).

## Memorize Seven Major Scale Fingerings

By memorizing these fingerings, you’ll be prepared to relate a major scale to any chord, anywhere on the fretboard. Pay close attention to the numbers between the tablature and the music notation for each note. These numbers indicate the steps of the major scale on which each note occurs. In each fingering, notice the half steps between “3” and “4” and between “7” and “1”,

In the numbering system shown at the left of each staff below (fingering 1, fingering 2, etc.), each fingering is numbered after the lowest reachable tone (by pitch) on the sixth string. This is emphasized by the circled numbers on the diagrams.

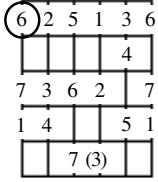
Numbers shown in parenthesis on the diagrams are optional third string fingerings for the same scale tone (by number) on the second string.

The text beneath the title of each fingering diagram (“reach with index finger”, “no reaches!”, etc.) describes which (if any) fingers should have to reach out of the range of four consecutive frets. These references do not necessarily include the optional notes on the third string.



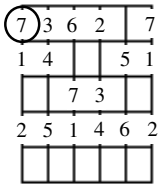
fingering 6

reach with little finger



fingering 7

no reaches!



In order that you can refer to all seven fingerings on the same page, they are shown in diagram form below:

<p>fingering 1 reach with index finger</p>	<p>fingering 2 reach with index finger</p>	<p>fingering 3 no reaches!</p>	<p>fingering 4 reach with index finger</p>	<p>fingering 5 reach with index finger</p>	<p>fingering 6 reach with little finger</p>	<p>fingering 7 no reaches!</p>
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