

Music

Which are the most useful chords?

Miss Charatan

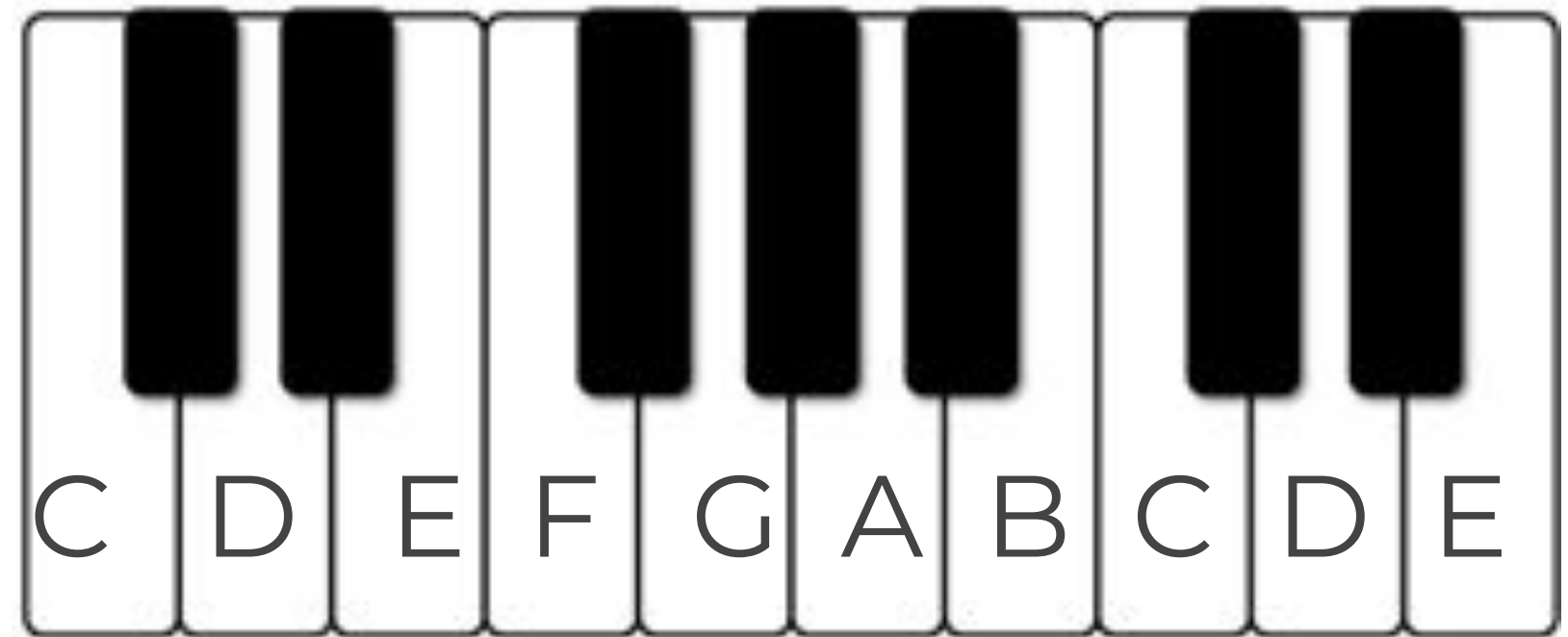


Task: work out these triads and play them on a real (or virtual) keyboard:



Press one, miss one, press one, miss one, press one

1. F major
2. G major
3. C minor
4. A minor



The C major scale

- A scale is a set of pitches.
- These are the **degrees** of the C major scale. The 1st degree is C, the 2nd is D, the 3rd is E, and so on.

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



Building chords

- We can build a triad on each of the notes of the scale, using the 'press one, miss one, press one' method.

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



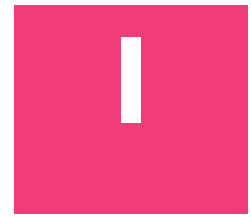
Primary chords

There are some chords more important than others. These are the **primary chords**. They are used to harmonise many melodies.

G	A	B	C	D	E	F
E	F	G	A	B	C	D
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii
1			4	5	Roman numerals	



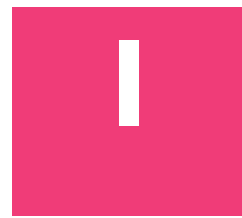
Example



Oh when the saints, go marching in,



Oh when the saints go marching in,



I want to be in that number,

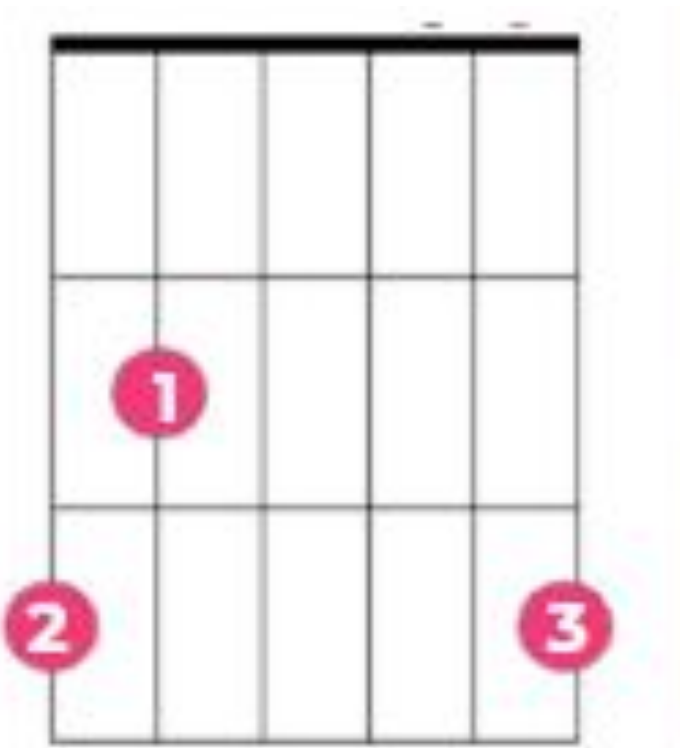


Oh when the saints go marching in.

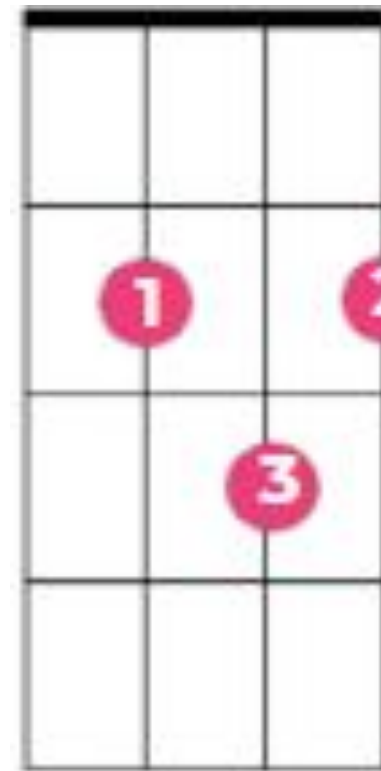


Playing G major

Guitar



Ukulele



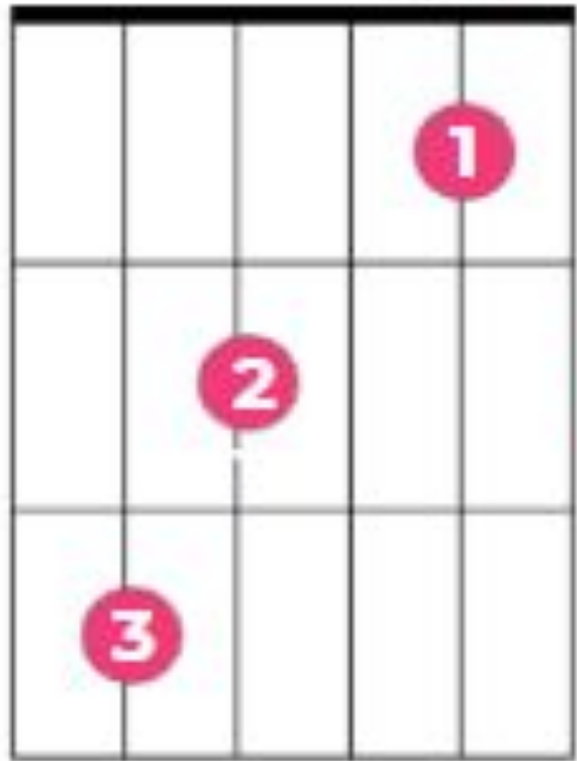
Keyboard

Use 1, 3, 5



Playing C major

Guitar



Ukulele



Keyboard

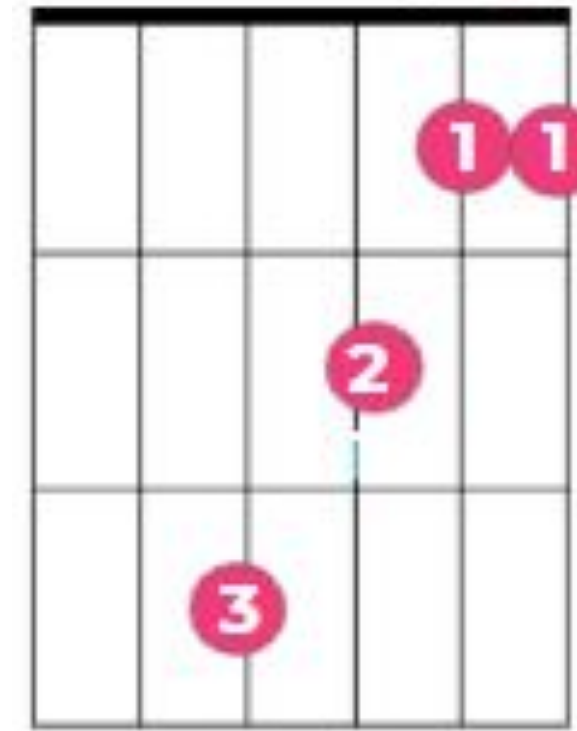
Use 1, 3, 5



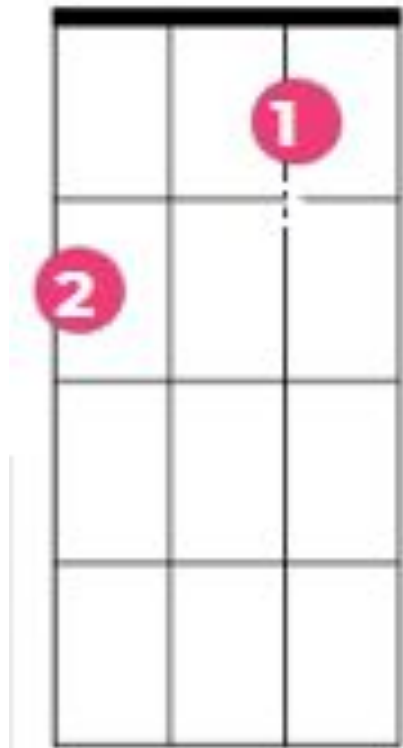
Playing F major

Guitar

X



Ukulele




Keyboard

Use 1, 3, 5



Clap these rhythms

4



4

1

and

2

and

3

and

4

and

4



4

1

and

2

and

3

and

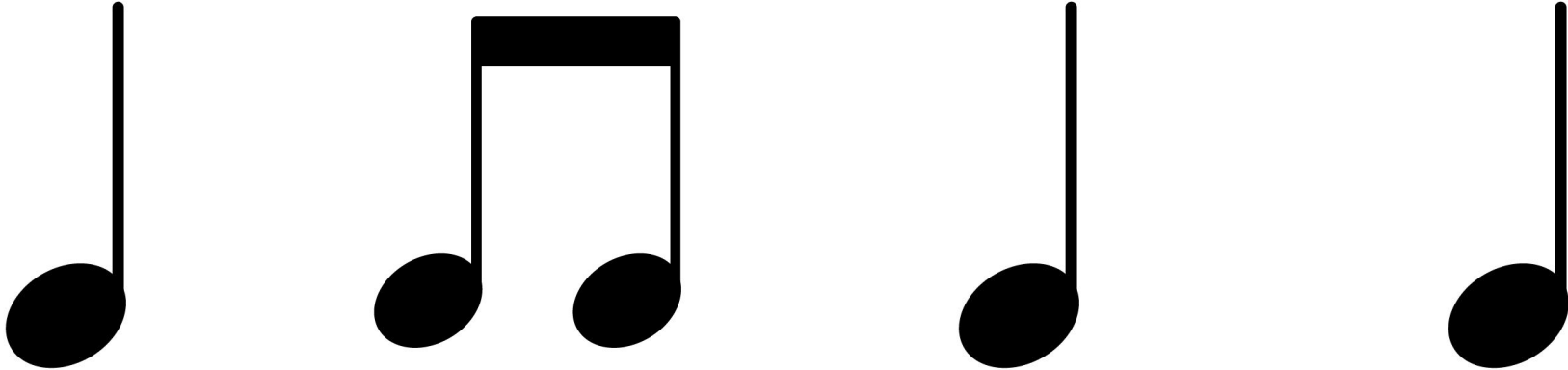
4

and



Clap these rhythms

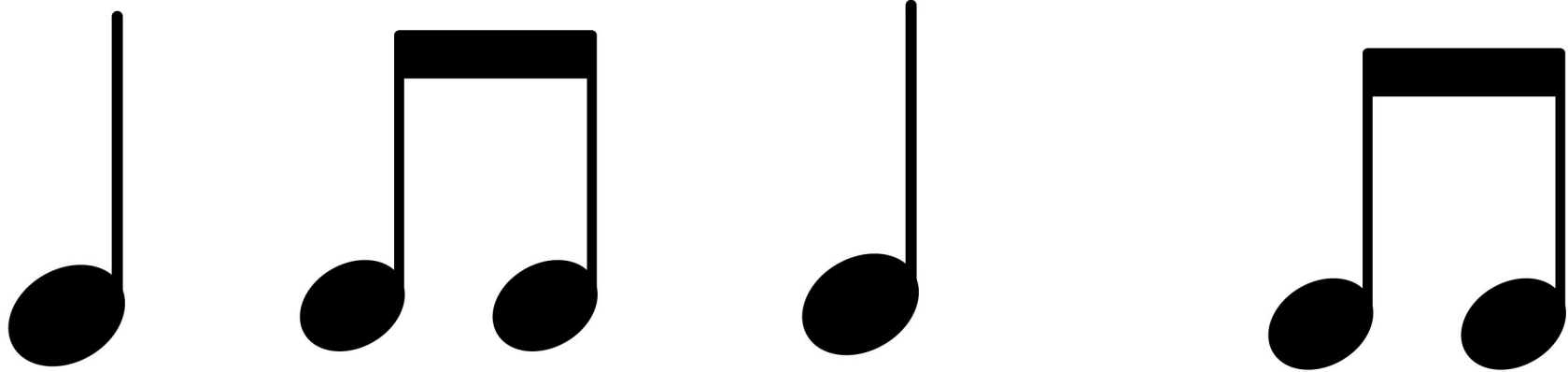
4



4

1	and	2	and	3	and	4	and
---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----

4



4

1	and	2	and	3	and	4	and
---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----



Clap these rhythms

4









4

1

and

2

and

3

and

4

and

4







4

1

and

2

and

3

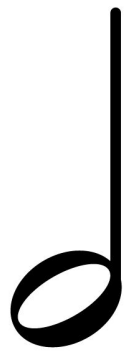

and

4

and



What's the difference?

4  

4 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

4   

4 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

Syncopated - stressing weaker beats in the music



More syncopated rhythms

4



4

1	and	2	and	3	and	4	and
---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----

A tie - glues the notes together

4



4


1	and	2	and	3	and	4	and
---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----





More syncopated rhythms

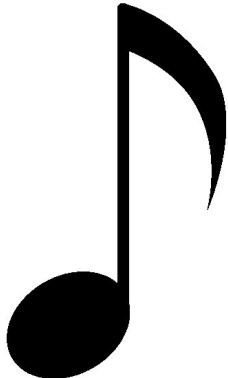
4

9









4

1

and

2

and

3

and

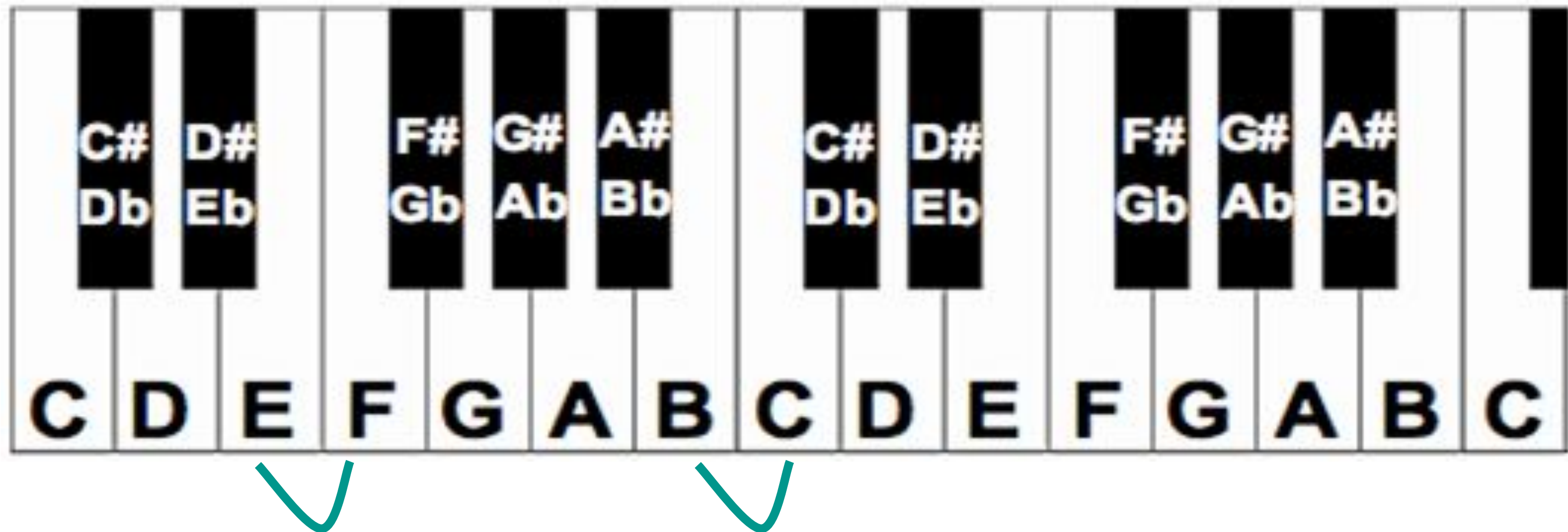
4

and



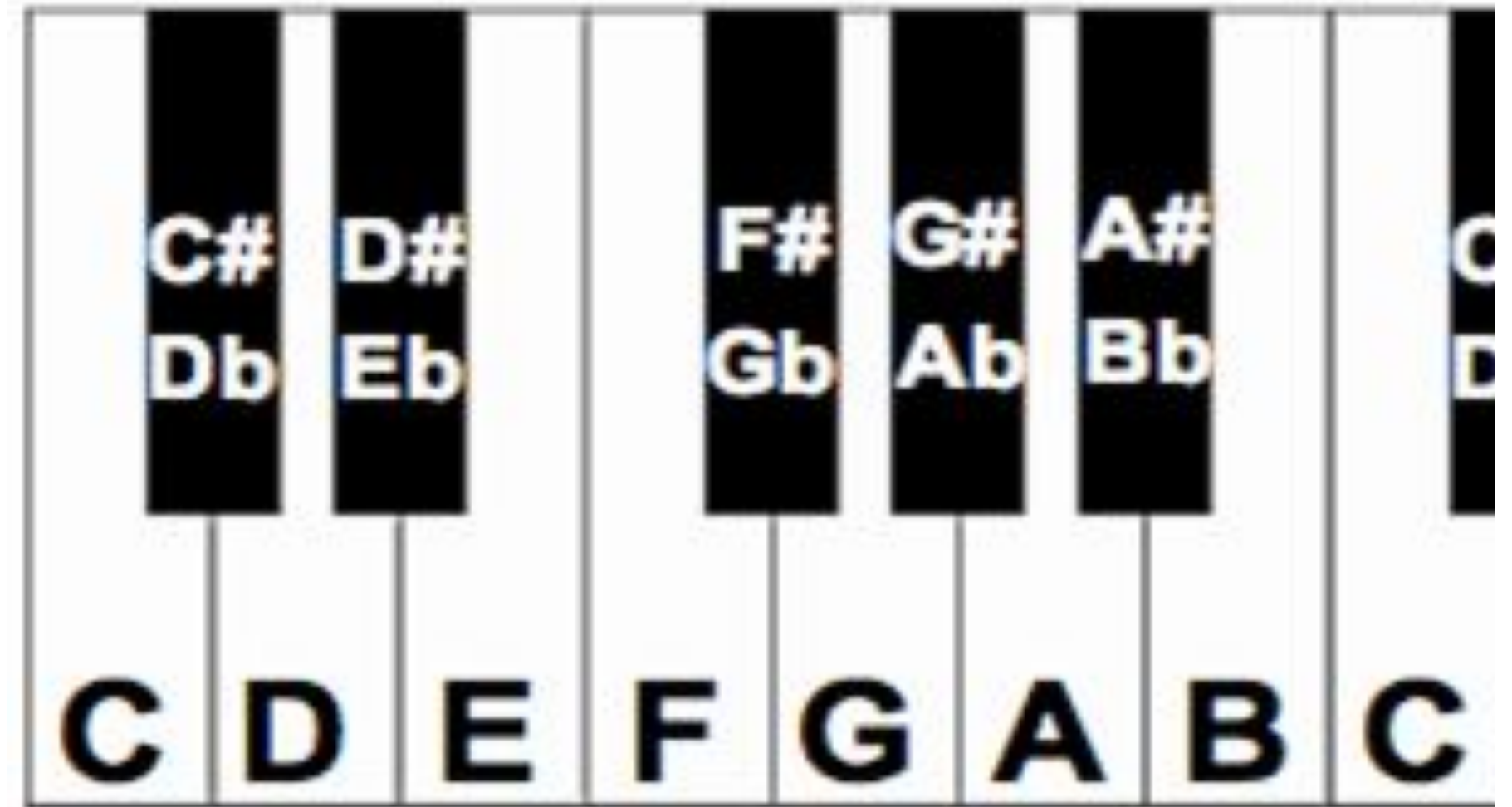
Semitones

A **semitone** is the smallest distance between 2 pitches (1 step). On a keyboard, that will be the nearest note up or down.



Task: tone or semitone?

1. C - C#
2. E-F
3. D-E
4. G-A
5. A-Bb
6. B-C



Writing a melody

- Start and end on C - this will make it sound finished!
- Limit yourself to C, E, F, G to start. (Too easy? Use more pitches)
- 2x 8 beat sections. The first section should end on G.
- Write your pitches down.

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



Harmonising your melody

1

2

C

C

1	G	A	1	B	C	D	E	F
	E	F		G	A	B	C	D
	C	D		E	F	G	A	B
	I	ii		iii	IV	V	vi	vii



Our key question:
Which are the most useful chords?

1. What is the set of chords called?
2. What numbers are they? (Write in Roman numerals too)
3. What are they in C major?



References

- Slide [2, 7, 8, 9] - [The Noun Project] - [Joeleen Moy] - [Piano]
- Slide [7] - [Flickr] - [Randal Droher] - [G Chord]
- Slide [7] - [Naomi Charatan] - [G chord ukulele]
- Slide [8] - [Naomi Charatan] - [C chord ukulele]
- Slide [8] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [DracoRoboter] - [C (Do) Chord]

