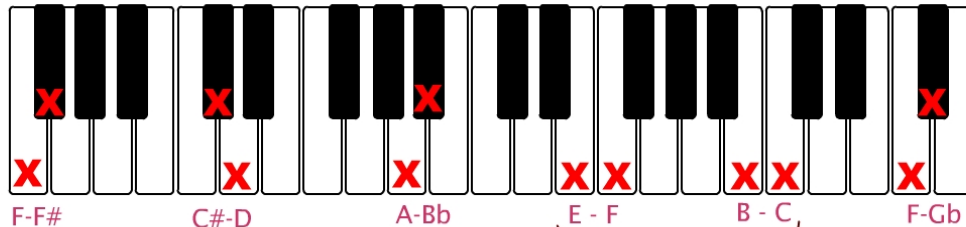


The piano keyboard is made up of something called:

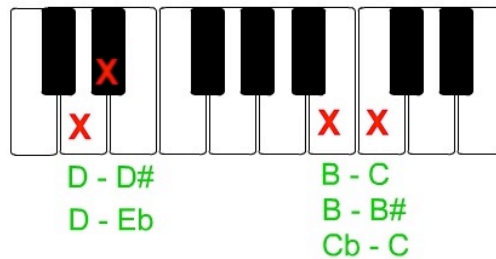
SEMITONES

A semitone is the distance between one note & the very next note (white or black). See the examples below:



Notice that semitones are not always white key to black key - sometimes they are white key to white key!

Remember from earlier we saw that every black key has 2 names? Well some white keys have 2 names also! See the picture below.



There are 2 types of semitones:

Chromatic

Diatonic

A **CHROMATIC** semitone above or below a note has the **SAME** letter name as the note.

The image shows two musical staves and two piano keyboard diagrams. The top left staff (treble clef) shows a note on the second line (D) and a sharp sign above it, with the label "D - D#" below. The top right staff (bass clef) shows a note on the second space (B) and a sharp sign above it, with the label "B - B#" below. Below these are two keyboard diagrams. The first diagram shows the D key (white) and the D# key (black) with red 'X' marks on both, labeled "D - D#" below. The second diagram shows the B key (white) and the B# key (black) with red 'X' marks on both, labeled "B - B#" below.

A **DIATONIC** semitone above or below a note has a **DIFFERENT** letter name.

The image shows two musical staves and two piano keyboard diagrams. The top left staff (treble clef) shows a note on the second line (D) and a flat sign above it, with the label "D - Eb" below. The top right staff (bass clef) shows a note on the second space (B) and a flat sign above it, with the label "B - C" below. Below these are two keyboard diagrams. The first diagram shows the D key (white) and the Eb key (black) with red 'X' marks on both, labeled "D - Eb" below. The second diagram shows the B key (white) and the C key (white) with red 'X' marks on both, labeled "B - C" below.

WHOLE TONES

A **WHOLE TONE** consists of 2 semitones:

The image shows a piano keyboard diagram with three pairs of keys marked with red 'X' to indicate whole tones. The first pair is C# (black) and D# (black), labeled "C# - D#" below. The second pair is F (white) and G (white), labeled "F - G" below. The third pair is Bb (black) and C (white), labeled "Bb - C" below.

Note: Whole tones must be written with the next letter name!

Do **NOT** skip a letter name.

Example: C# - D# NOT C# - Eb
Gb - Ab NOT Gb - G#
D# - C# NOT D# - Db