

Let's Read Music: Bass

IX. "D" Major Scale

We've worked our a way to another D on the bass clef. This now means we know all the notes for an D Major Scale.

Goal: learn to read D on the bass clef, and how to play an D Major Scale.



The upper quarter notes on this measure are a new "D" note. It sounds like the lower "D" we've learned about, but higher. When two notes are the same letter name but sound higher or lower than the other, we call this an octave.

This new "D" gives us all the notes we need to play a D Major Scale. A scale in music is defined as a "succession of tones belonging to any key." The graphic below shows all the notes needed to play the D Major Scale. The scale is built on a pattern of note movements known as steps. There are two kinds of steps that we can measure: Whole Steps and Half Steps. The different steps are marked between each note on the graphic below. "W" is used for Whole Steps and "H" is used for Half Steps. Your teacher will also demonstrate the different steps for you on the bass.

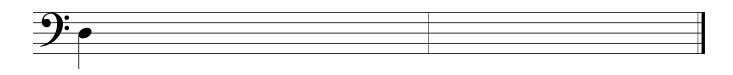
Exercise 9.1 - While counting in four, play the D Major Scale below.



2. Elson, Louis C. Elson's Pocket Music Dictionary, Oliver Ditson Company 1909, pp. 127 Copyright © 2020 Rose Music Studio, Elisha G. Rose

Coursework

Coursework 9.1 - You are given the first note of the D Major Scale. Using quarter notes, draw the rest of scale, ascending. Be sure to add sharps to the correct notes of the scale.



Coursework 9.2 - Identify if the notes in each measure are a Whole Step (W) or a Half Step (H) apart. Use your bass as a reference.



Creativity Exercise: Fill out the following measures with your own assortment of notes and rests. You may use any note values and letter names you desire, but the higher "D" must be used at least once.

