

Musical Definitions: Half-Steps and Whole Steps

(Note-Names, Numbers and Steps)

JimO

1. Each Piano-Note is Half-Step Up or Down

C
Root
Root

C#
Half.Step.Up
1

-

C
Root
Root

Db
Half.Step.Up
1

5

C
Root
Root

B
Half.Step.Down
1

-

C
Root
Root

Cb
Half.Step.Down
1

9

2. Two Half-Steps In a Row reach a Whole-Step

C
Root
Root

C#
Half.Step.Up
1

D
Whole.Step.Up
2

C
Root
Root

12

Db
Half.Step
1

D
Whole.Step
2

C
Root

B
1/2.Step.Down

Bb
Whole.Step.D.

15

3. Half-Steps (Semi-Tones) From Middle-C with Flat-Names:

C
Root

B
1/2

A#
Whole

C
Root

Db
1/2

D
1/2

Eb
1/2

E
1/2

F
1/2

Gb
1/2

G
1/2

Root 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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4. Half-Steps (Semi-Tones) From Middle-C with Sharp-Names:

Ab
1/2

A
1/2

Bb
1/2

B
1/2

C
1/2

C#
1/2

C#
1/2

D
1/2

D#
1/2

E
1/2

F
1/2

F#
1/2

G
1/2

Root 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains five notes: G#, A, A#, B, and C. Below the staff, the notes are labeled with their names, string numbers, and fret numbers.

G#	A	A#	B	C
1/2	1/2	1/	1/2	1/2
8	9	10	11	12