

Where Do The Different Keys Come From?

Sharp Keys

C D E F G A B C
tone tone half tone tone tone half

So the pattern is T T H T T T H

So for sharps we use that last sequence of T T H to be the start pattern of the next key.

G A B C D E F# G
tone tone half tone tone tone half

So we have the rule - **"the last sharp is always 'te' "**

And now we just repeat the trick over and over again

D E F# G A B C# D
tone tone half tone tone tone half

So to get each new key we step down in fourths and sharpen the seventh note of the new key

C G D A E B F# C# and strictly then G# D# A# E# B#

C# scale is C# D# E# (F) F# G# A# B# (C) C# so that's all seven notes sharpened.

Flat Keys

C D E F G A B C
tone tone half tone tone tone half

So the pattern again is T T H T T T H

Now for flats we use that first sequence of T T H to be the end pattern of the next key.

We now flatten the seventh note of the previous key to make the fourth note of the next key.

(Remember before we sharpened the 4th note of the previous key to make the 7th note of the next key.)

F G A Bb C D E F
tone tone half tone tone tone half

So now we have the rule - **"the last flat is always 'fa' "**

And as before we just repeat the trick over and over again

Bb C D Eb F G A Bb
tone tone half tone tone tone half

So to get each new key we step up in fourths and flatten the fourth note of the new key

C F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb and strictly then Fb

Cb scale is Cb Db Eb Fb (E) Gb Ab Bb Cb (B) so that's all seven notes flattened

Summary

So in total we've generated 15 keys in total but there are only 12 notes!

That's because C#≡Db and F#≡Gb and B≡Cb

Tempered Scale

Strictly there are 21 notes C C# Db D D# Eb E E# Fb F F# Gb G G# Ab A A# Bb B B# Cb

But in creating a tempered scale we reduce to 12.

(B#/C) (C#/Db) D (D#/Eb) (E/Fb) (E#/F) (F#/Gb) G (G#/Ab) A (A#/Bb) B/Cb

But if you bother tick off all the scales including the extra special ones we've covered all 21 notes