

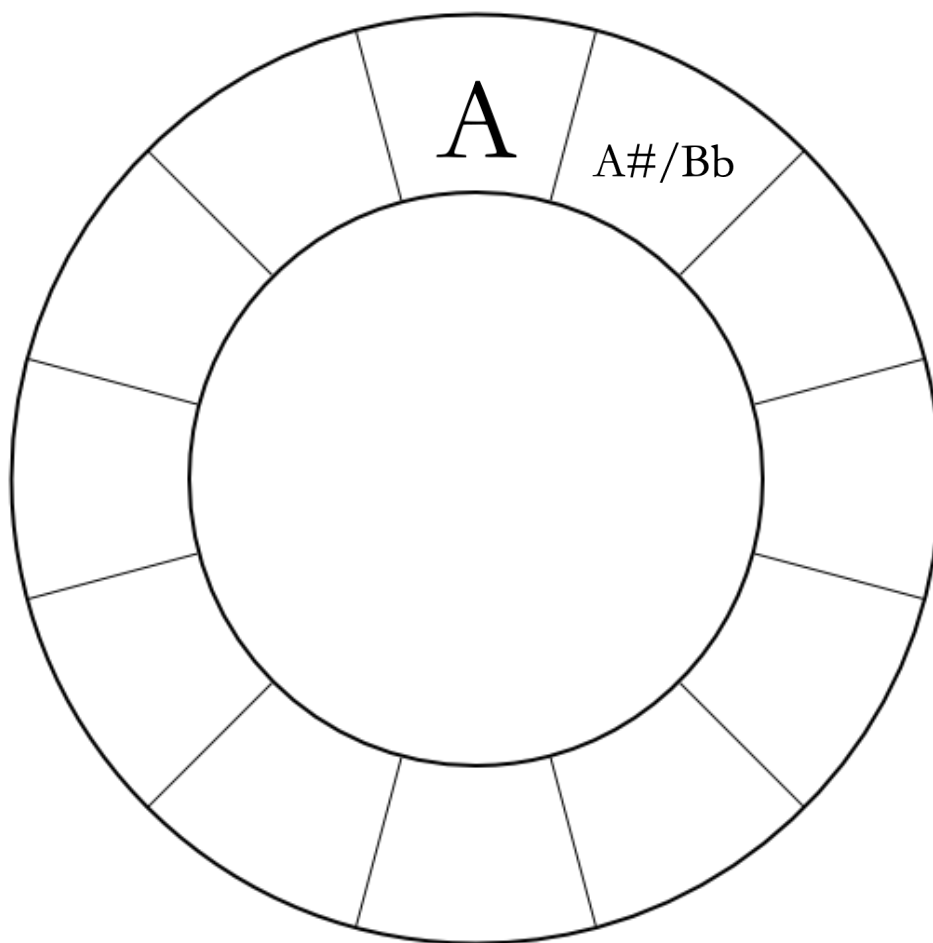
Intervals

Part 1

An **interval** is the distance between two notes.

Write out the musical alphabet (A, A#/Bb, B, C, C#/Db, D, D#/Eb, E, F, F#/Gb, G, G#/Ab) on the diagram below.

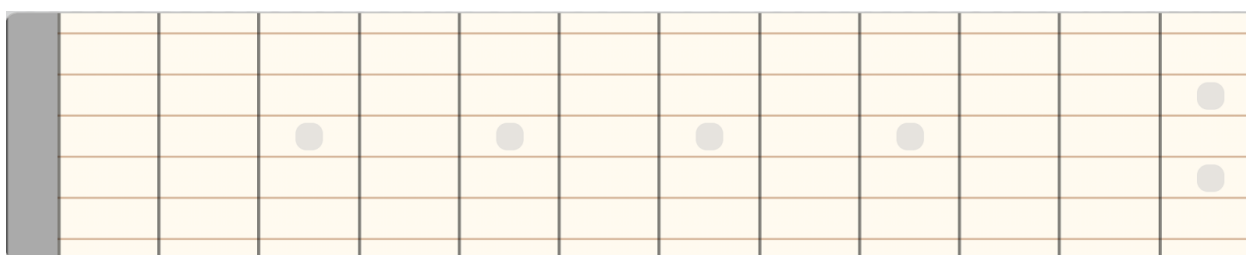
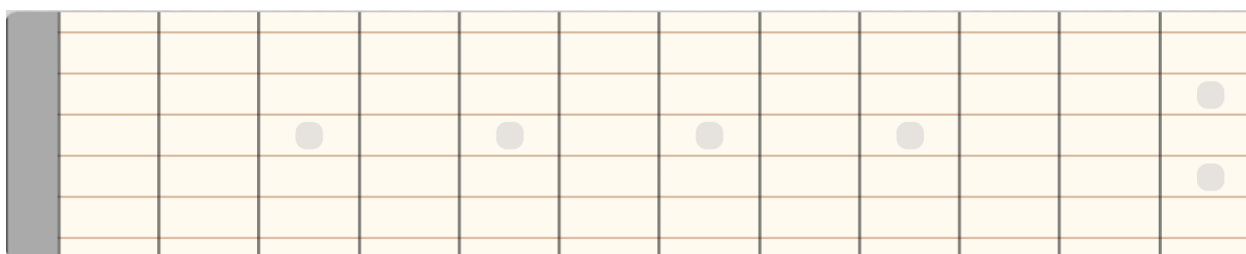
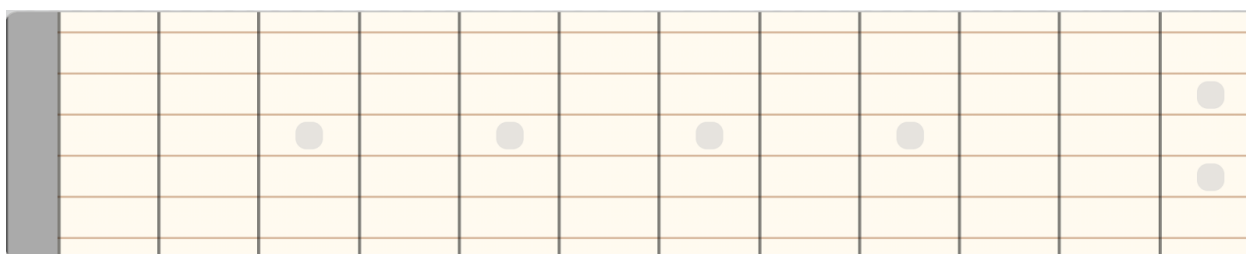
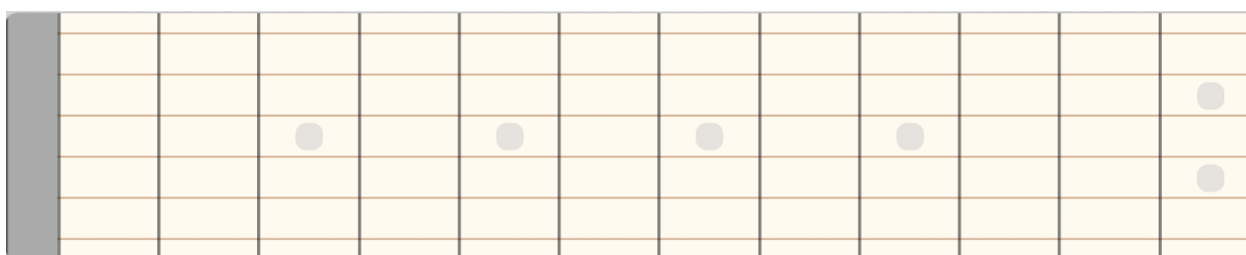
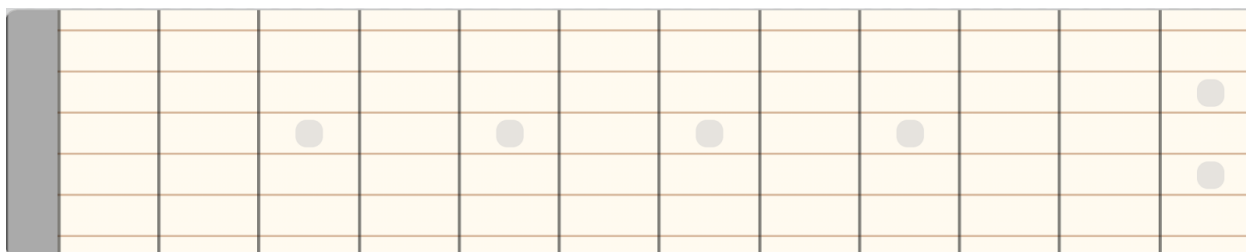
→ UP →
← DOWN ←



← UP ←
→ DOWN →

Use this space to write out the musical alphabet on the fretboard

Complete diagrams can be easily found by searching “fretboard diagram” on Google



There are 8 main **types** of intervals:

1. **Unisons** - the distance between any note and another note with the same alphabetical name, and in the same register is a **unison**. (e.g. A and A)
2. **Octaves** (8ves) - the distance between any two notes with the same letter name in a higher or lower register is an **octave**. (e.g. Gb up or down to Gb)
3. **Seconds** (2nds) are one letter apart. (e.g. G down to F#)
4. **Thirds** (3rds) are two letters apart. (e.g. F up to A)
5. **Fourths** (4ths) are three letters apart. (e.g. G up to C)
6. **Fifths** (5ths) are four letters apart. (e.g. C down to F)
7. **Sixths** (6ths) are five letters apart. (e.g. Bb up to G)
8. **Sevenths** (7ths) are six letters apart. (e.g. A up to G#)

*All of the above intervals can be a variety of sizes, and can go up (also called **ascending** intervals) or down (also called **descending** intervals).

There are 5 more detailed ways to describe the size of an interval, also called the **quality**:

1. **Perfect** - the default version of Unisons, 4ths, 5ths, and 8ves (e.g. Perfect 5th)
2. **Major** - the large version of 2nds, 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths (e.g. Major 3rd)
3. **Minor** - the small version of 2nds, 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths (e.g. Minor 7th)
4. **Augmented** - the large version of Unisons, 4ths, 5ths, and 8ves (e.g. Augmented 4th), or the extra large version of 2nds 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths (e.g. Augmented 6th)

5. **Diminished** - the small version of Unisons, 4ths, 5ths, and 8ves (e.g. Diminished 5th), or the extra small version of 2nds 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths (e.g. Diminished 2nd)

The most common intervals are:

1. **Perfect Unisons** - The same exact note, with the same name (e.g. E and E)
2. **Augmented Unisons** - Two notes with the same name and in the same register, but with different accidentals (e.g. B and Bb)
3. **Perfect 8ve** - Two notes with the same name and accidental, but in a different register (e.g. E and a higher or lower E)
4. **Minor 2nds** - 2nds that are one space away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. G# up to A)
5. **Major 2nds** - 2nds that are two spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. C up to D)
6. **Minor 3rd** - 3rds that are three spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. A up to C)
7. **Major 3rd** - 3rds that are four spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. C# down to A)
8. **Perfect 4th** - 4ths that are five spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. Bb down to F)
9. **Augmented 4th** - 4ths that are six spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. G up to C#)
10. **Diminished 5th** - 5ths that are six spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. G up to Db)

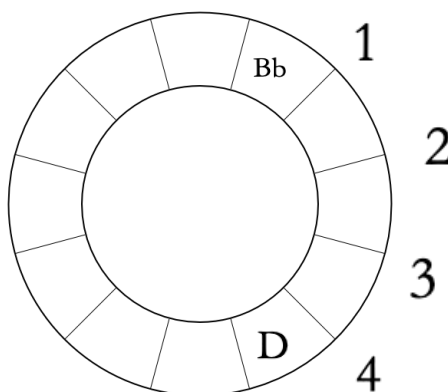
11. **Perfect 5th** - 5ths that are seven spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. Ab up to Eb)
12. **Minor 6th** - 6ths that are eight spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. E up to C)
13. **Major 6th** - 6ths that are nine spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. D up to B)
14. **Augmented 6th** - 6ths that are ten spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. C up to A#)
15. **Minor 7th** - 7ths that are ten spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. Eb down to F)
16. **Major 7th** - 7ths that are eleven spaces away from each other on the note wheel (e.g. Ab up to G)

How to use the interval wheel

1. Find an interval to analyze. Let's examine this one:



2. Determine the note names. (Bb and D)
3. If the interval is **melodic** (the notes aren't played at the same time, but one after the other) take note of the interval **direction** (ascending)
4. Determine the **type** by counting the number of letters apart they are in the musical alphabet (two).
 - a. You can also count the number of lines and spaces apart they are on the staff, starting by counting the lower note as 1. The interval type will always be one greater than the number of letters they are apart.
5. Count the number of spaces away from each other they are on the interval wheel (4) and take note of the corresponding interval **quality**



6. Name the interval by **direction**, **quality**, and **type**. That makes this interval an **ascending major 3rd**

Try this exercise with the following intervals. For each interval state the **direction** (ascending or descending), followed by the **quality** (perfect, major, minor, augmented, or diminished), and the **type** (unison, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8ve):



*this one could be either ascending or descending