

Whole Step and Half Step layout on Single Strings and Adjacent Strings

Single String

Adjacent String sets

Whole Step
(2 Frets)

Half Step
(1 Fret)

Whole Step

Half Step

These work on all adjacent string sets except the G and B set

Musical notation showing whole and half steps on a single string and adjacent string sets (excluding G and B). The notation includes a treble clef staff with notes and a TAB staff with fret numbers. The single string section shows a whole step (2 frets) from fret 8 to 10 and a half step (1 fret) from fret 8 to 9. The adjacent string sets section shows a whole step from fret 8 on one string to fret 5 on the adjacent string, and a half step from fret 8 on one string to fret 4 on the adjacent string.

on the "G and B" string set

Whole Step

Half Step

Musical notation showing whole and half steps on the G and B string set. The notation includes a treble clef staff with notes and a TAB staff with fret numbers. The whole step section shows a whole step from fret 5 on the B string to fret 3 on the G string. The half step section shows a half step from fret 5 on the B string to fret 2 on the G string.

The combination of knowing the construction of your major scale (or any scale for that matter) and knowing the above shapes will enable you to cross over to the next string as long as you know what scale degree you're on.

For example: 1 2 3-4 5 6 7-8
Major Scale is WWHWWWH

If you play the 1st degree on the Low E and cross over to the A string for the 2nd degree then you would use the Whole Step Shape for the E and A string set. If you're on the 3rd degree on the Low E and want cross over to the A string for the 4th degree, you would use the half step shape for the E and A.

Musical notation showing single string and adjacent string whole and half steps. The notation includes a treble clef staff with notes and a TAB staff with fret numbers. The single string whole step section shows a whole step from fret 1 to 2 on the same string. The whole step on adjacent strings section shows a whole step from fret 8 on the E string to fret 5 on the A string. The single string half step section shows a half step from fret 12 to 13 on the same string. The adjacent string half step section shows a half step from fret 12 on the E string to fret 8 on the A string.