

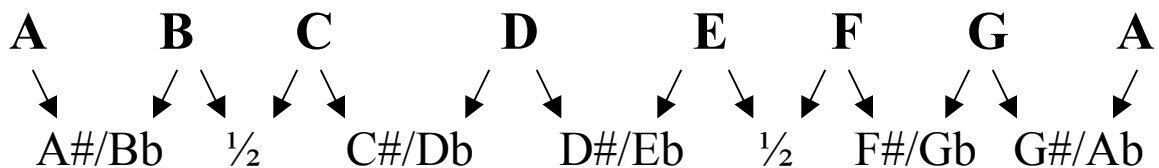
Notes on the Fretboard

Our music system is made up of 12 different notes or tones. Each note is separated by an **interval**. An **interval** is the distance between any 2 notes. The two intervals we will use right now are called **half steps** and **whole steps**.

Half Step-Distance of one fret on the guitar

Whole Step-Distance of two frets on the guitar.

Here is the layout of our note system:



On top, we have all our natural notes- no sharps or flats.

Sharp- Raises the pitch of a note by a half step

Flat-Lowers the pitch of a note by a half step

Below the natural notes there are two letters: one with a sharp, one with a flat. This is the same note with two different letter names- this is known as an **enharmonic**. You'll also notice that between B and C as well as E and F there is only one 1/2 step- there is no sharp or flat between those two sets of notes.

To see this work on guitar, pick an open string(my suggestion would be to try open A first) and play up the string, saying all natural notes as well as the sharp notes until you reach the 12th fret. Once you are at the 12th fret you are one octave above where you started.

Octave-Same pitch/note name in a different register

Now that you are at the octave, go back down the string in flats.

When you reach the open string, make sure to end on the same note you started with. Repeat this exercise on all open strings.

Say all note names as you play them!