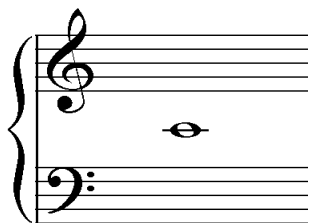


With its alternating pattern of white and black keys, the piano keyboard puts music theory into a tactile, touchable, visible form.

The black key between two white keys doubles as the “sharp” of the lower note and the “flat” of the higher note. For example, the key between D and E is both E[♯] and D[♭].



The C below the treble clef and above the bass clef is **Middle C**. It is the C in the middle of a piano keyboard, closest to the manufacturer’s name or logo.

On a full size piano, the top and bottom look like this picture, but there are four more octaves for a total of 88 keys.

The Piano Keyboard: Not just for pianists...

by Matthew C. Saunders—
www.martian dances.com

You can determine the interval between the two notes by counting the number of half-steps they cover. Count the ending note but not the starting note. If your number is greater than 12, subtract 12 until you get a number that is 12 or smaller.

Do you see why we have to have sharps and flats to play in keys other than C?

Use the groupings of two and three black keys to keep your bearing. C is to the left of the group of two, F is to the left of the group of three, and C comes before F in the alphabet, just like 2 comes before 3.

Number of Half-Steps	Interval
1	minor 2nd
2	Major 2nd
3	minor 3rd
4	Major 3rd
5	Perfect 4th
6	Augmented 4th diminished 5th
7	Perfect 5th
8	minor 6th
9	Major 6th
10	minor 7th
11	Major 7th
12	Perfect Octave

