

SCALES & CHORDS INFOGRAPHIC

PLAY PIANO NOW

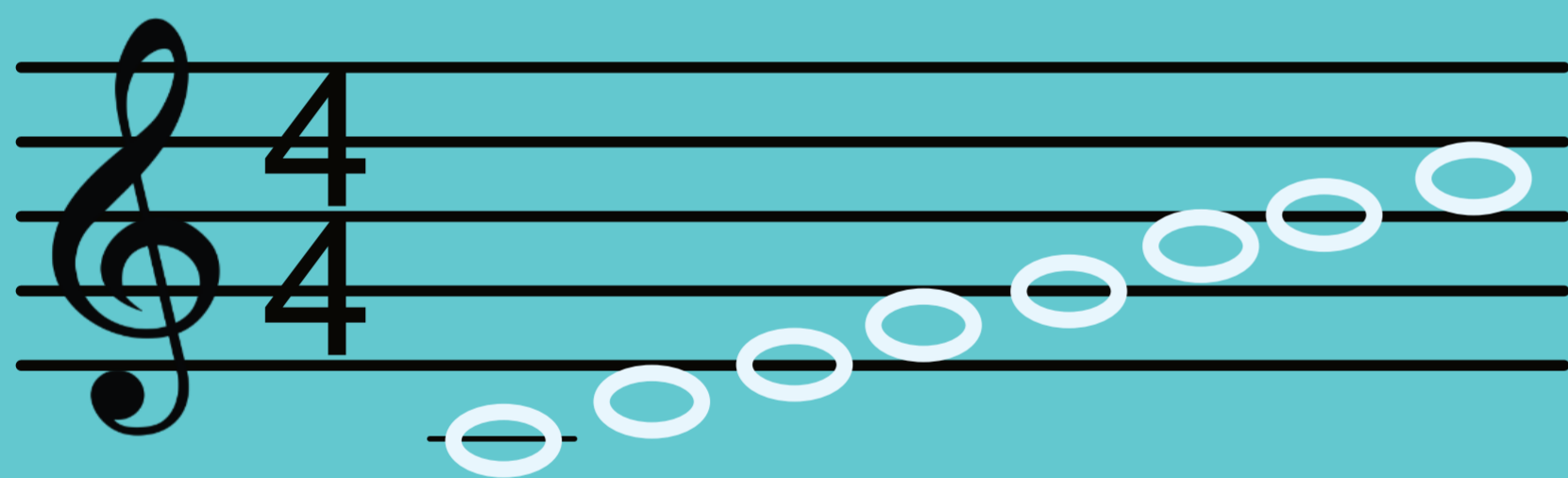
SCALES

Western Music uses the first 7 notes of the alphabet

A B C D E F G

We write music on a framework called the "Staff" that consists of 5 lines and 4 spaces representing the white notes of the piano.

Below you can see the notes of an ascending C major scale as it would be written on the staff.



A major scale always has this pattern of w (whole steps) and h (half steps).

C w D w E h F w G w A w B h C

In the same way that we build words from the alphabet, the scale is used to build chords in music.

You can find out how to do this in the CHORDS section to the right.

CHORDS

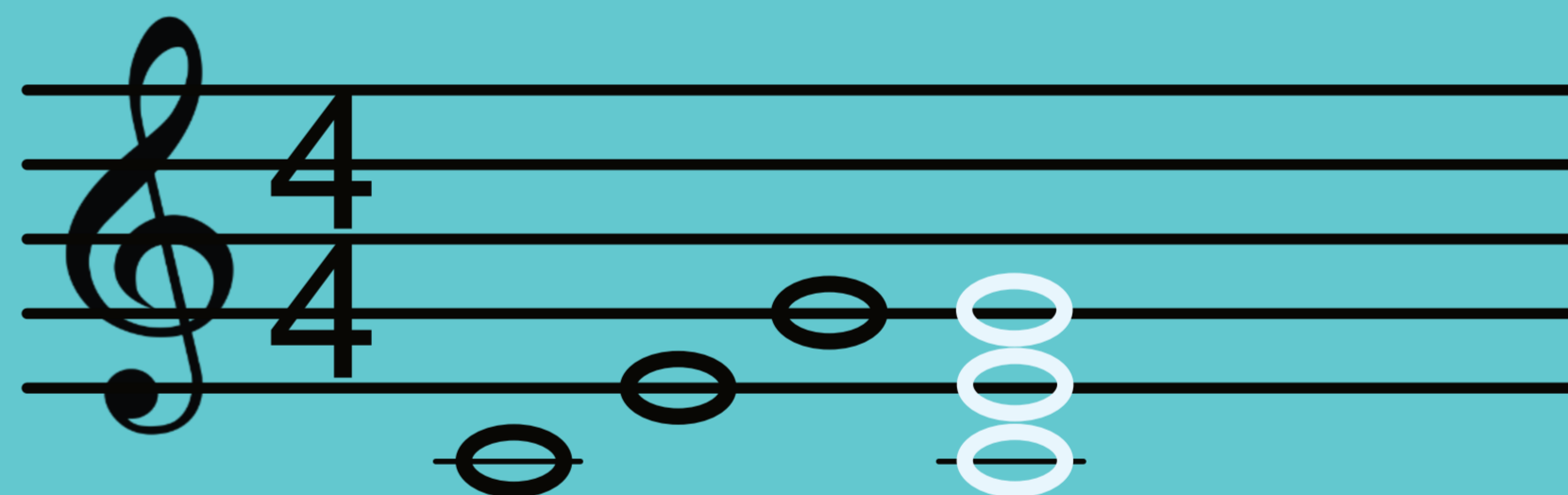
Our system of harmony is based on stacking intervals of a 3rd from a particular scale which defines the key.

Let's use the C scale.

C D E F G A B C

We will build a chord up starting from middle C.

1. Count up 3 letters from C - C D E
2. Place the E above the C
3. Count up 3 letters from E - E F G
4. Place the G above the E



This is called a triad.

The C is the root of the chord, the E is the 3rd and the G is the 5th.

Here are triads built on every scale degree.

G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii	I

Uppercase roman numerals are major chords and lowercase are minor or diminished.

We will find out about major, minor and diminished chords in another infographic.