

Intervals

C major C minor

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

The image shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff is for C major, with notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The second staff is for C minor, with notes C, D, E-flat, F, G, A-flat, B-flat, C. Below each staff are the numbers 1 through 8, corresponding to the scale degrees.

Numbering

2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8ve

The image shows a musical staff in C major with intervals starting on G4. The intervals are: G4-A4 (2nd), G4-B4 (3rd), G4-C5 (4th), G4-D5 (5th), G4-E5 (6th), G4-F5 (7th), and G4-G5 (8ve).

2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8ve

The image shows a musical staff in C major with intervals starting on different notes: A4-B4 (2nd), B4-C5 (3rd), C5-D5 (4th), D5-E5 (5th), E5-F5 (6th), F5-G5 (7th), and G5-G5 (8ve).

To work out an interval count the lowest note as 1.

You can be in any key but the lowest note of the interval is *always* number 1

These examples are in C major but start on different notes.

The interval is still the same because we're only concerned about the *distance between the notes*.

Labelling

Major 2nd Minor 3rd Major 3rd Perfect 4th Perfect 5th

The image shows a musical staff in C major with intervals starting on C4: C4-D4 (Major 2nd), C4-E-flat4 (Minor 3rd), C4-E4 (Major 3rd), C4-F4 (Perfect 4th), and C4-G4 (Perfect 5th).

Minor 6th Major 6th Minor 7th Major 7th Octave (Perfect)

The image shows a musical staff in C minor with intervals starting on C4: C4-B-flat4 (Minor 6th), C4-B4 (Major 6th), C4-B-flat5 (Minor 7th), C4-B5 (Major 7th), and C4-C5 (Octave (Perfect)).

Not only do intervals have numbers but they also have labels.

Before labelling any interval you must work out the number first.

Using C major and C minor for examples (as above):

Major and minor intervals are where the top note is different for a major and minor scale.

Perfect intervals are where the higher note will be the same in a major and minor scale.

When say 'octave' we mean 'perfect octave'.