INTERVALS

The Musicians Compass makes it easy to see intervals and step patterns.

The musical distance between two notes is called an interval.

Example 1 – In the key of C, the A note is up a major sixth or down a minor third.

Example 2 – The notes in a major chord are 1st-3rd-5th, so from the 1st to the 3rd is a major third – 4 semitones. From the 3rd to the 5th is a minor third – 3 semitones.

Example 3 – The notes in a minor chord are 1st-flat 3rd-5th. So from the 1st to the flat 3rd is a minor third – 3 semitones. From the flat 3rd to the 5th is a major third – 4 semitones.

: See brochure – CHORD STRUCTURE.

STEP PATTERNS

The ascending order of notes in a scale or mode is called a step pattern.

Example 4 – The step pattern for a Major scale (IONIAN MODE) is: tone-tone-semitone-tone-tone-tone-semitone

Example 5 – The step pattern for the natural minor scale (AEOLIAN MODE) is: tone-semitone-tone-tone-semitone-tone-tone


: SEE BROCHURE – SCALES