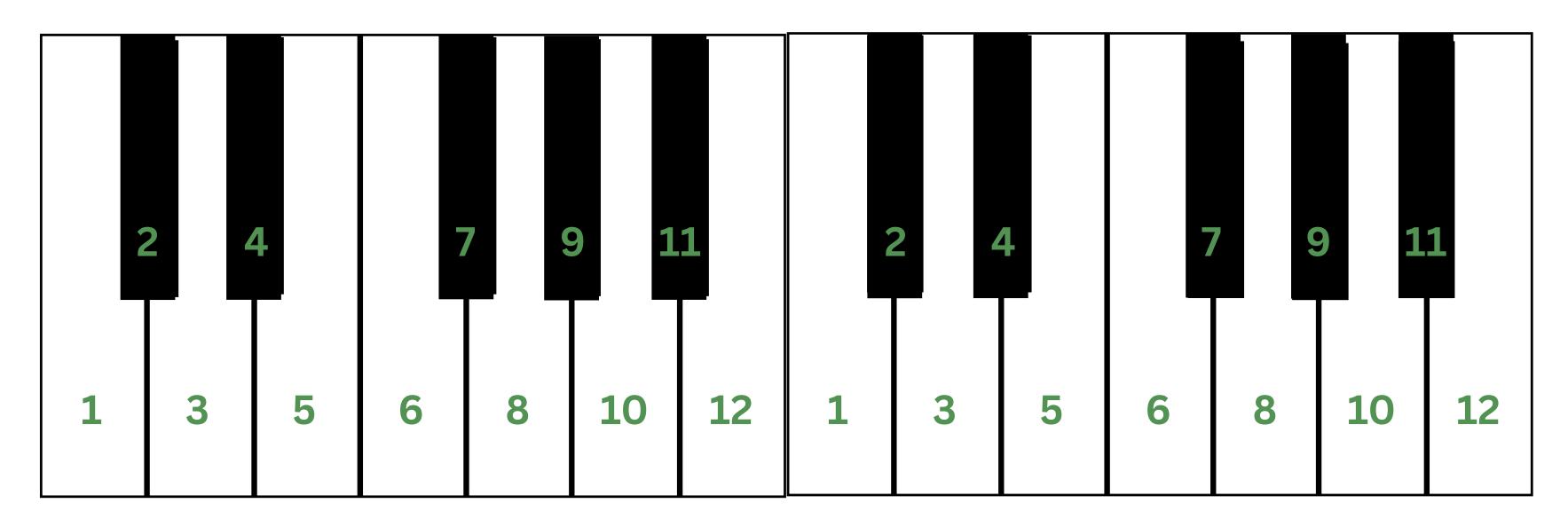
Alex's Music Theory made for easy learning



Fixed notes, major scales, and root chords (Everything you need to play the major scales)

The Fixed Notes

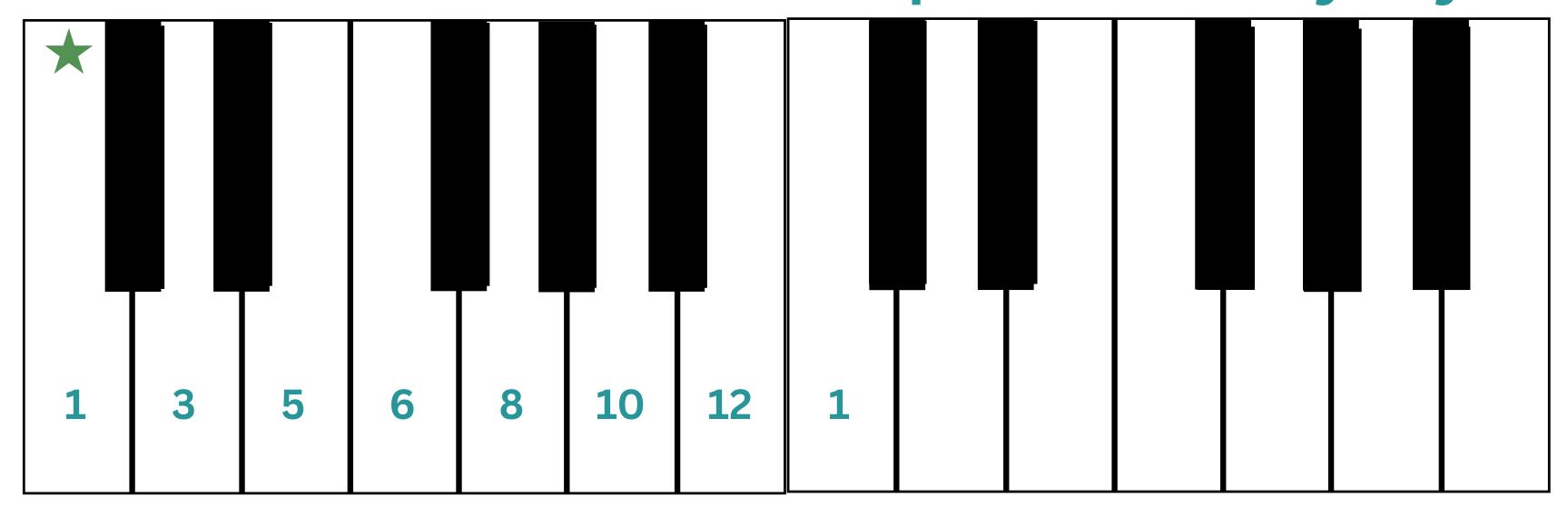


The fixed notes are labels, so they don't move. Scales and chords are formulas, so they can move anywhere. Scale degrees tell us where to play the chords and which kind of chords to use.



The 1 Major Scale

Not fixed. We can start the pattern on any key.

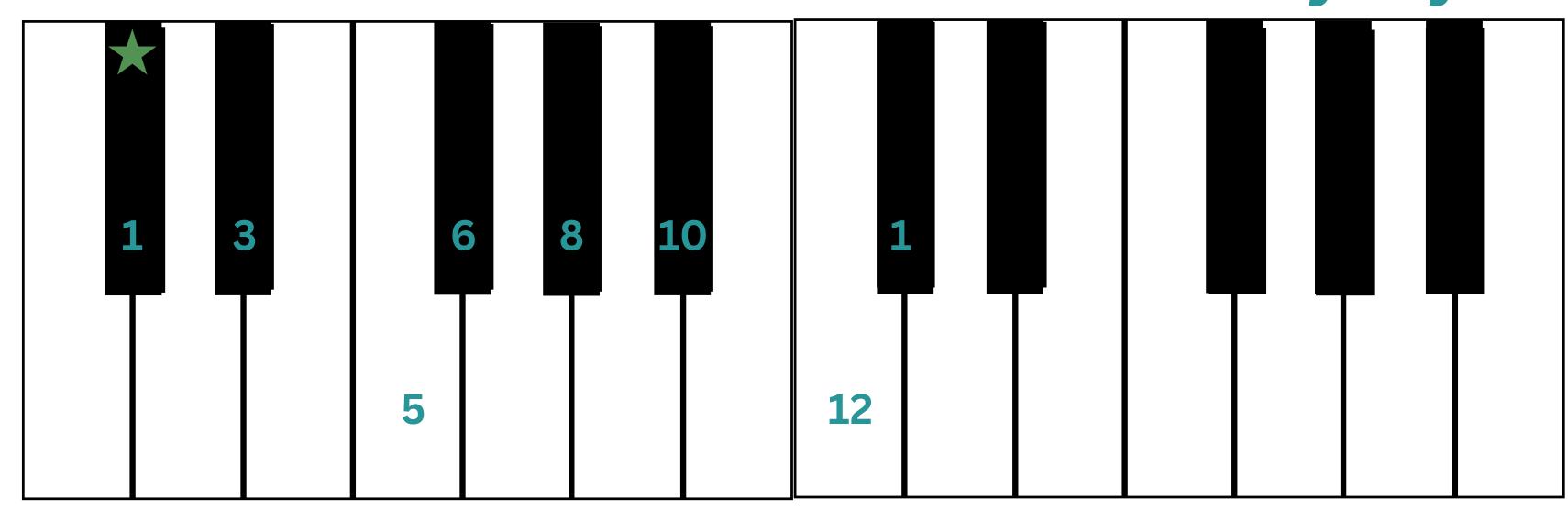


It is 3 odd numbers then 4 even. 1 3 5 6 8 10 12 + 1 If you start on Fixed 1, you'll get all white keys



The 2 Major Scale

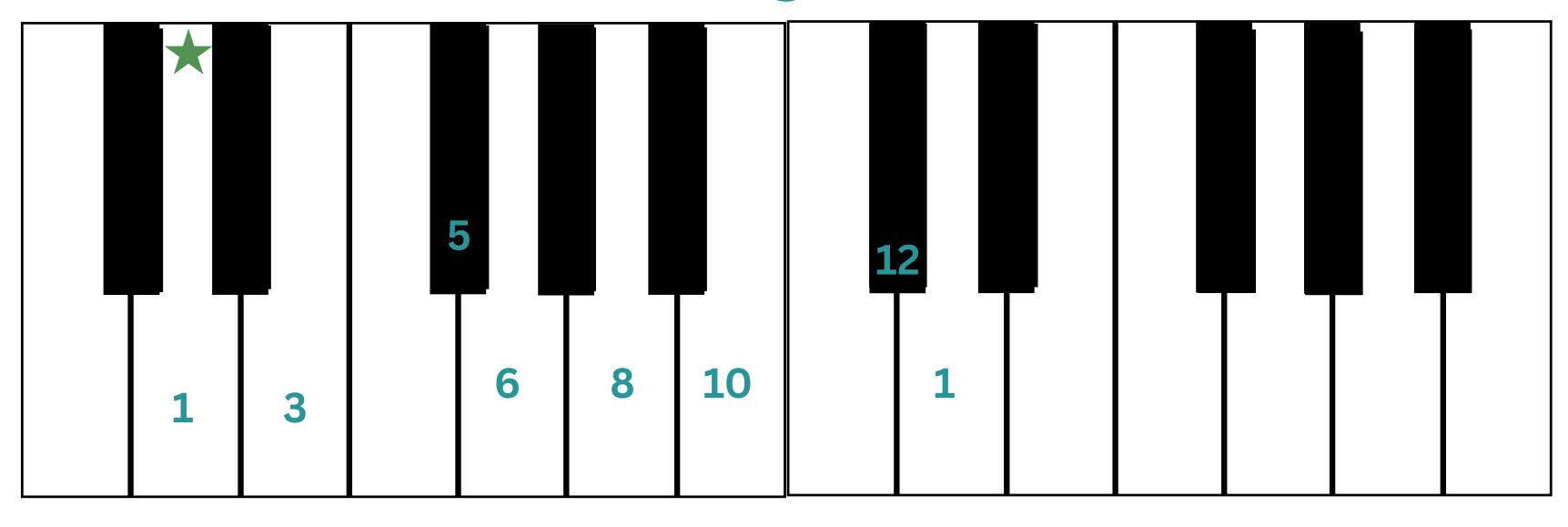
Scales are not fixed and can start on any key.



The major scale formula is 1 3 5 6 8 10 12 1. If you start on Fixed 2, you get this pattern.



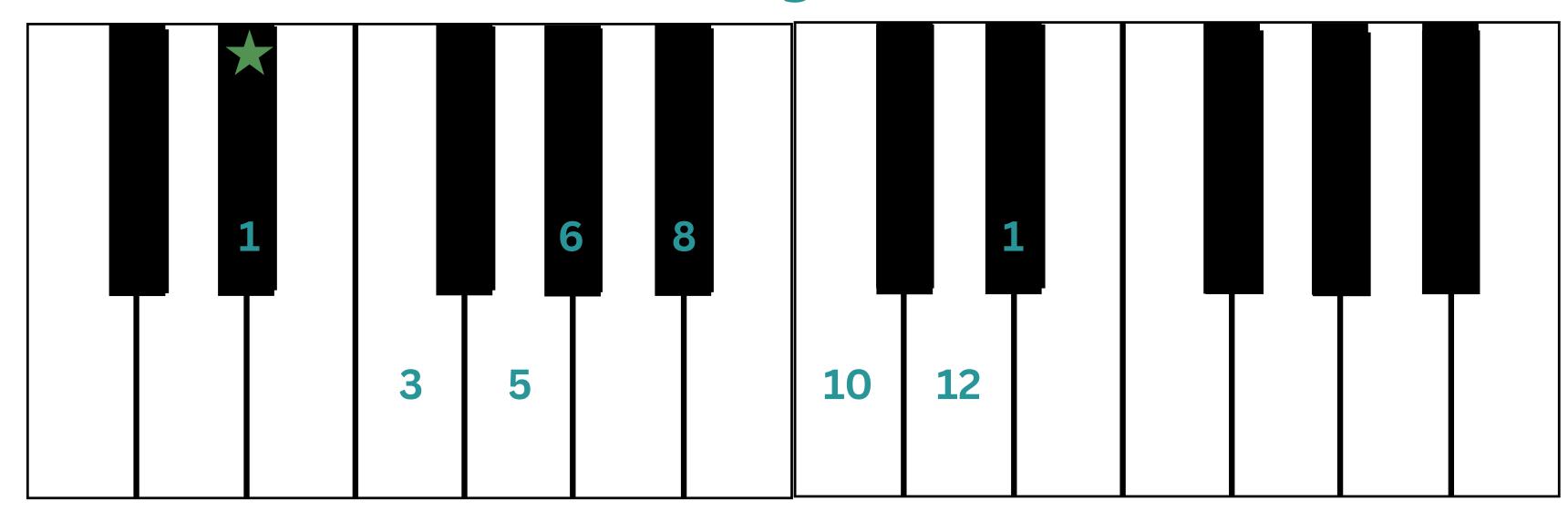
The 3 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 3, you get this pattern. It's the 3 Major Scale because it starts on Fixed 3.



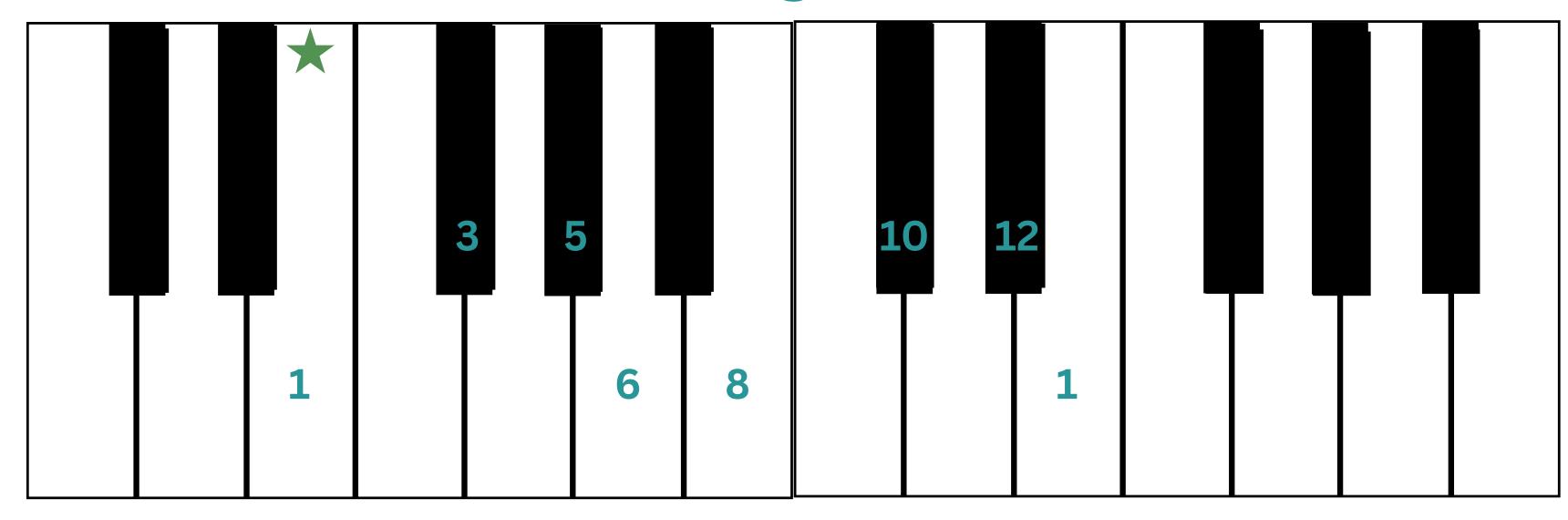
The 4 Major Scale



You can move this anywhere. If you start on Fixed 4, you get this pattern.



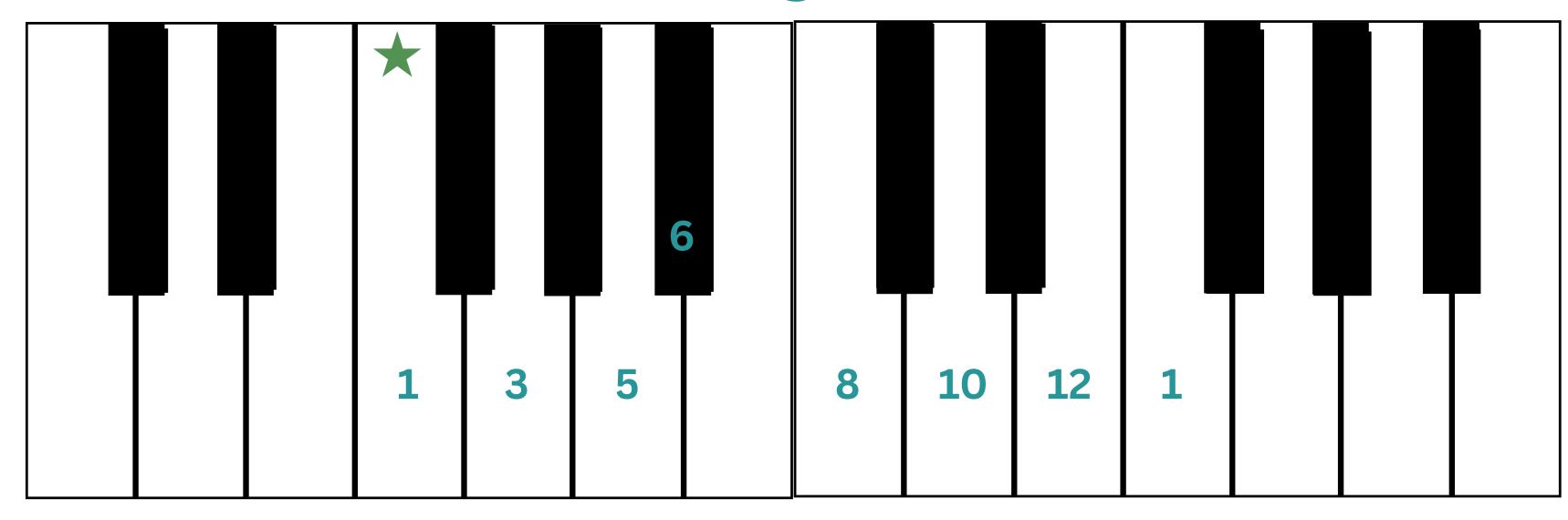
The 5 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 5, you get this pattern.



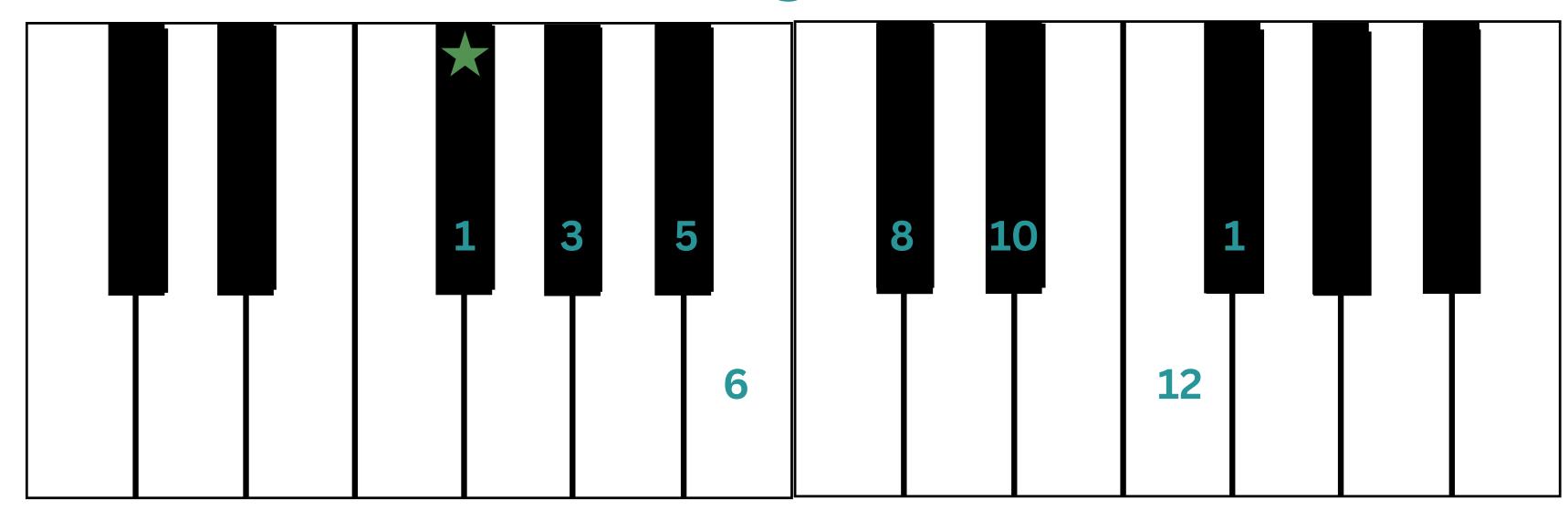
The 6 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 6, you get this pattern.



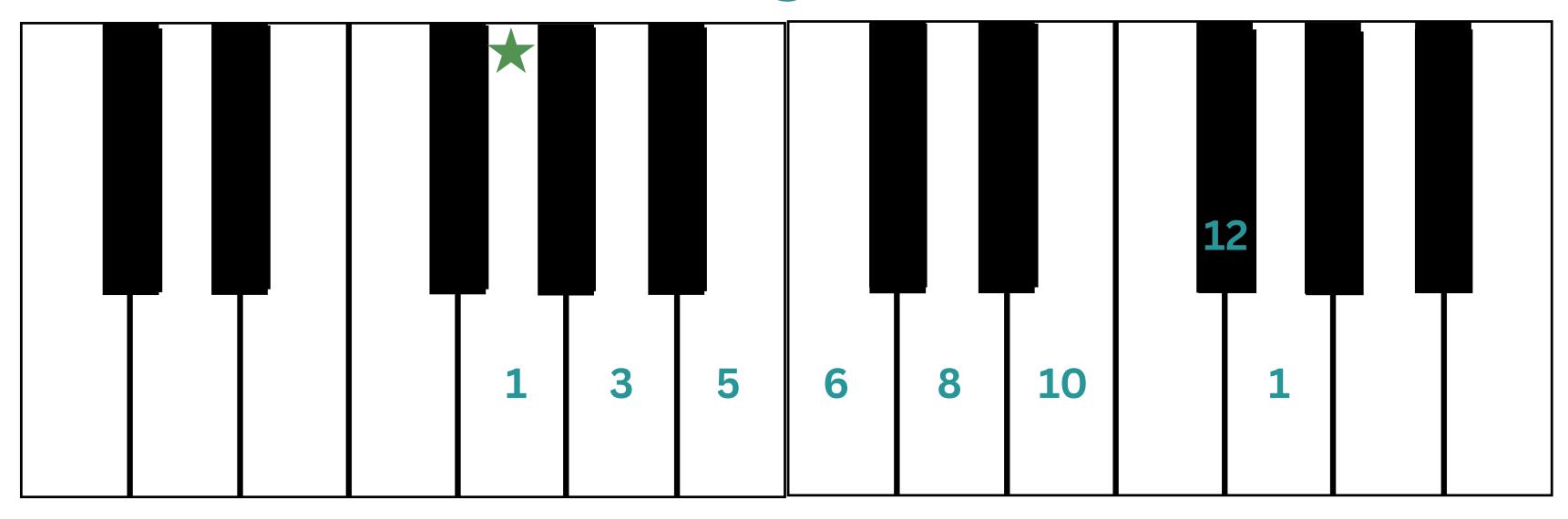
The 7 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 7, you get this pattern.



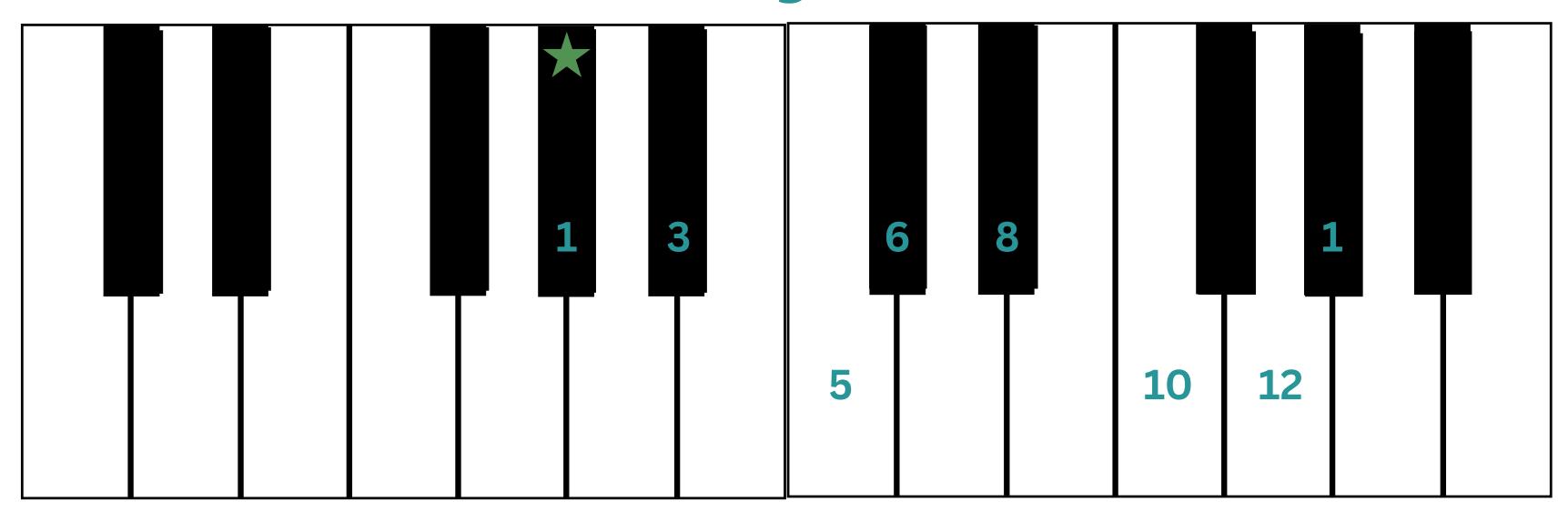
The 8 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 8, you get this pattern.



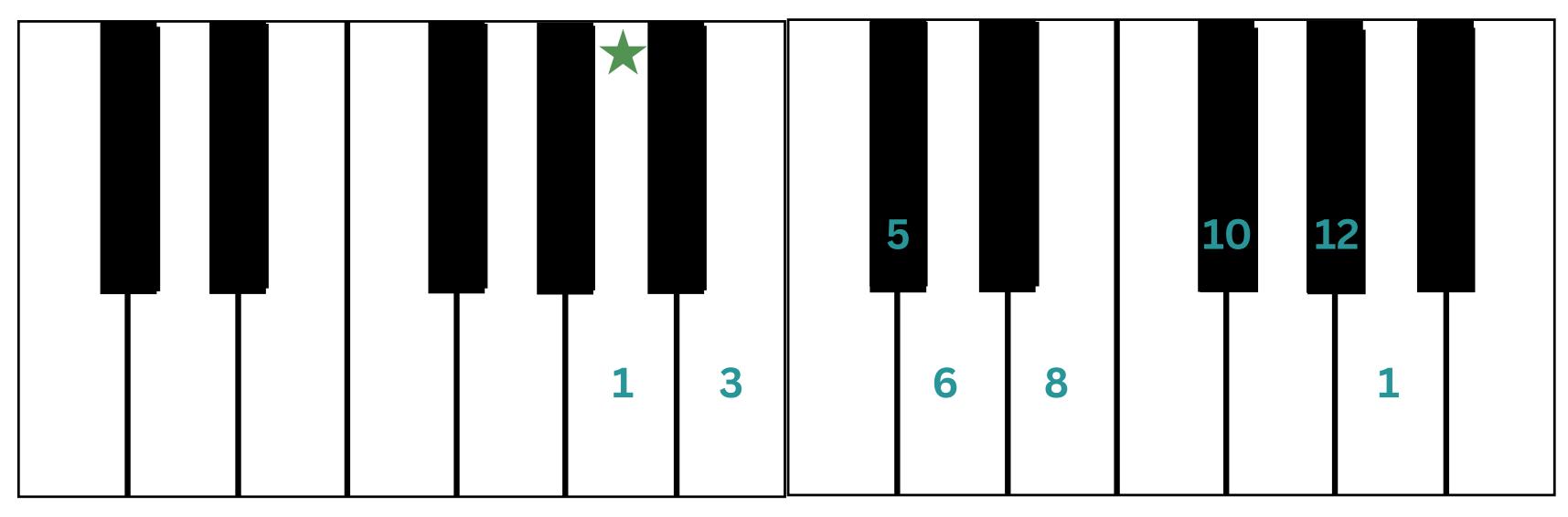
The 9 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 9, you get this pattern.



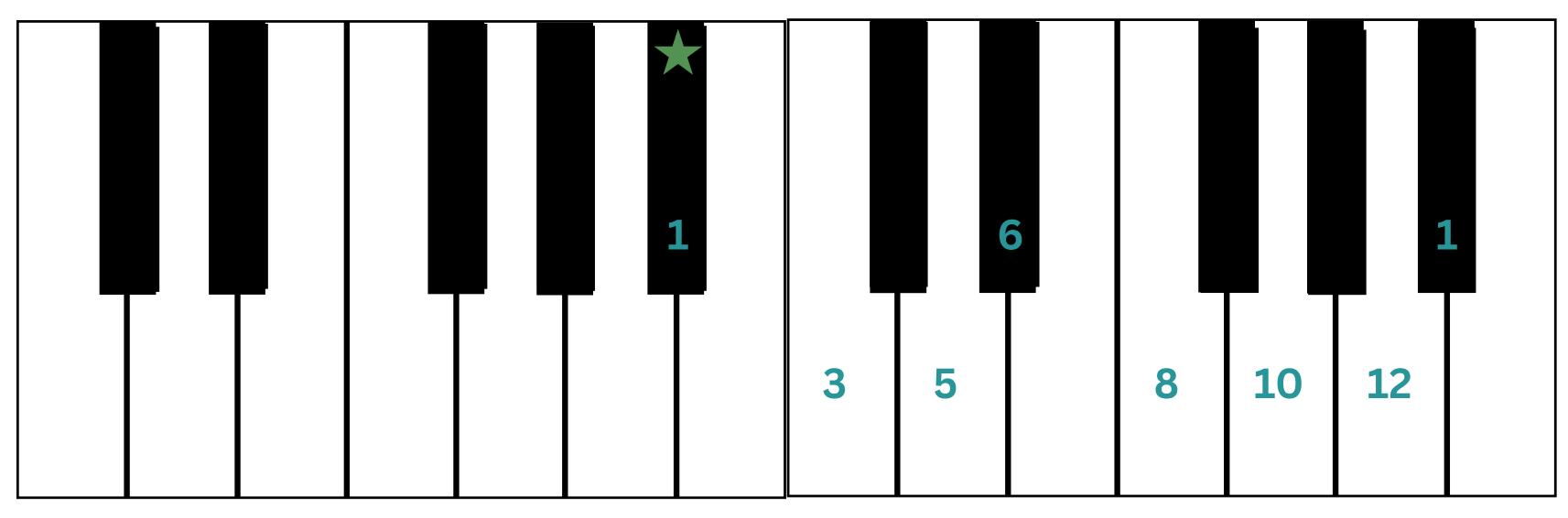
The 10 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 10, you get this pattern.



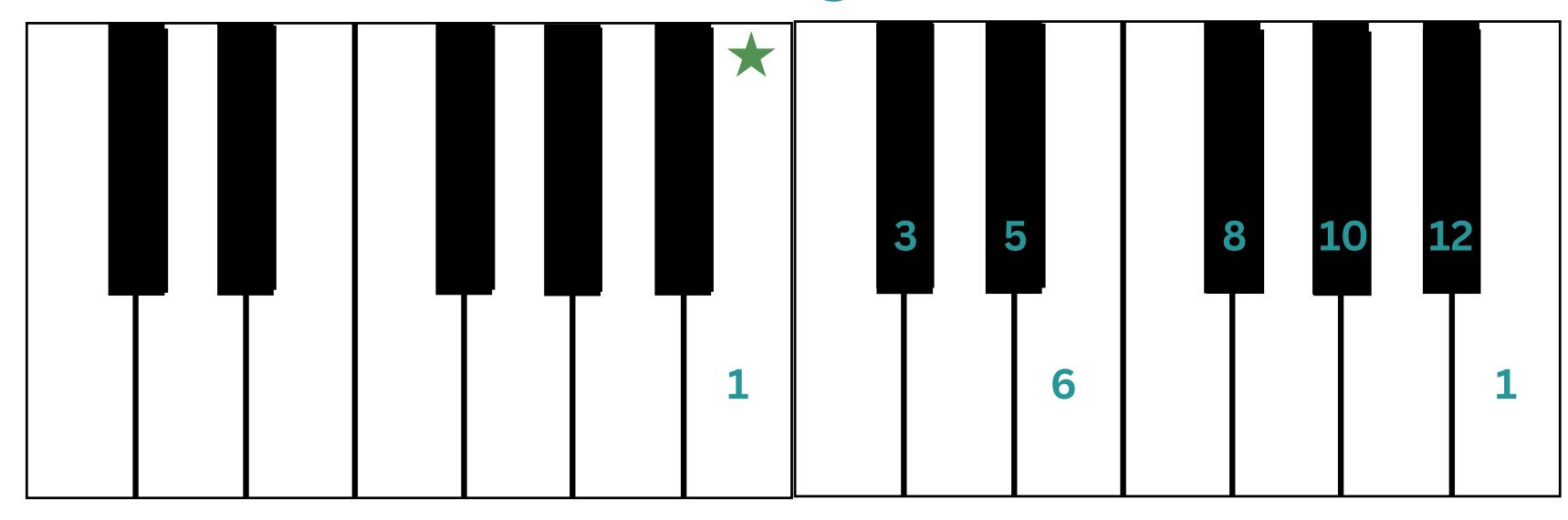
The 11 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 11, you get this pattern.



The 12 Major Scale



If you start on Fixed 12, you get this pattern.

Each number in the major scale (13568 10 12 1) has a personality that drives the music. This is called the scale degree. Each is assigned either a major, minor, or diminished chord.

1-The Tonic

The tonic is the home of the scale. The tonic is the key that the piece lives in. It feels safe and like completion. 1 uses a major chord.

3 - Supertonic

The supertonic 3 uses a minor chord.

5 - Mediant

The mediant 5 uses a minor chord.

6 - Subdominant

The subdominant 6 uses a major chord.

8 - Dominant

The dominant 8 uses a major chord. This note is 1.5x the sound frequency of the tonic.

Scale Degrees 10 - Submediant

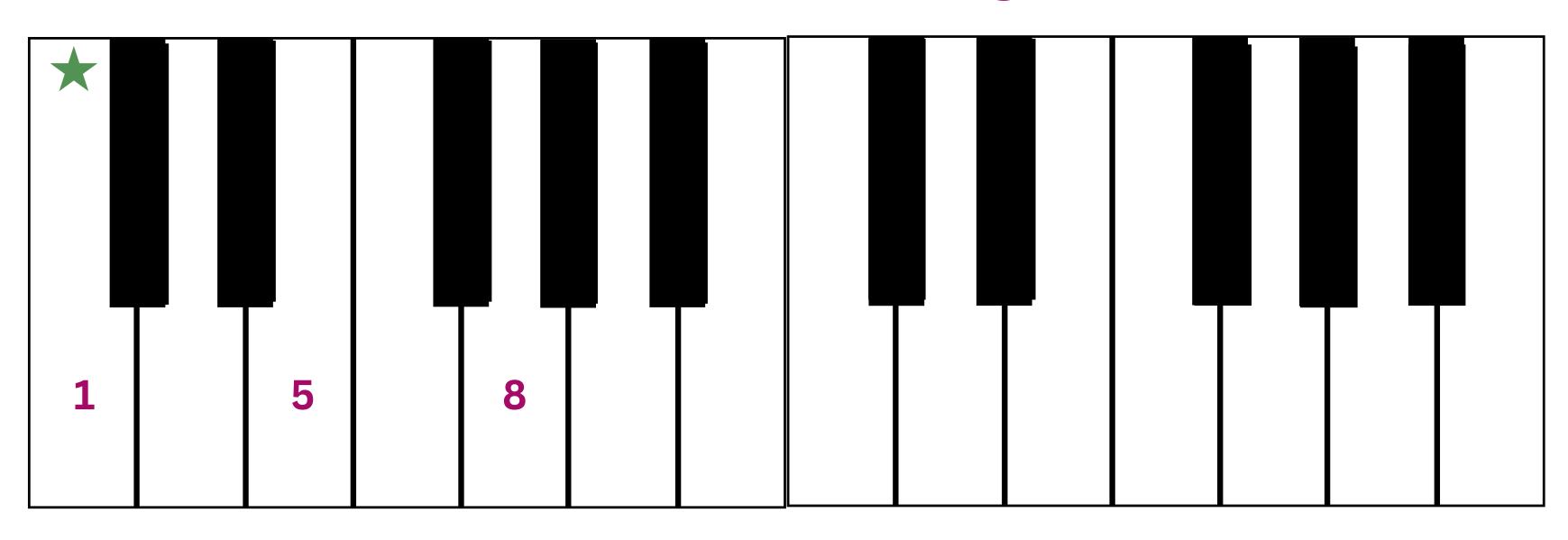
The submediant 10 uses a minor chord.

12 -Leading tone

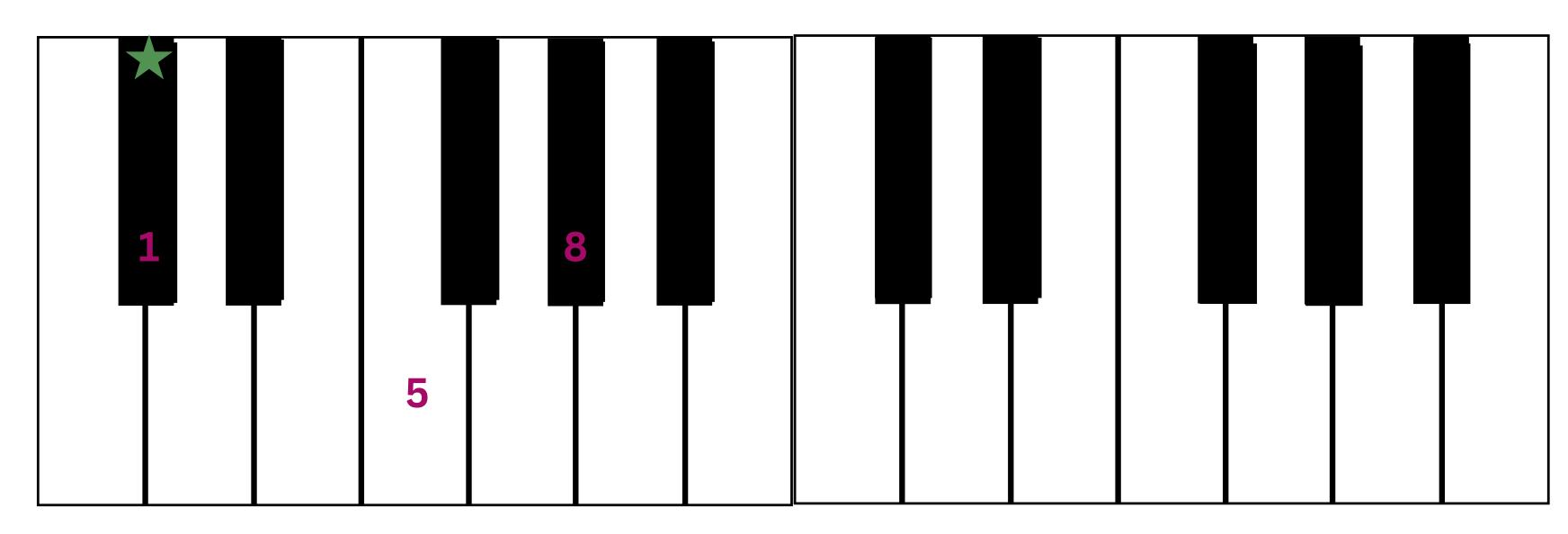
The leading tone 12 uses a diminished chord.

1 - Tonic

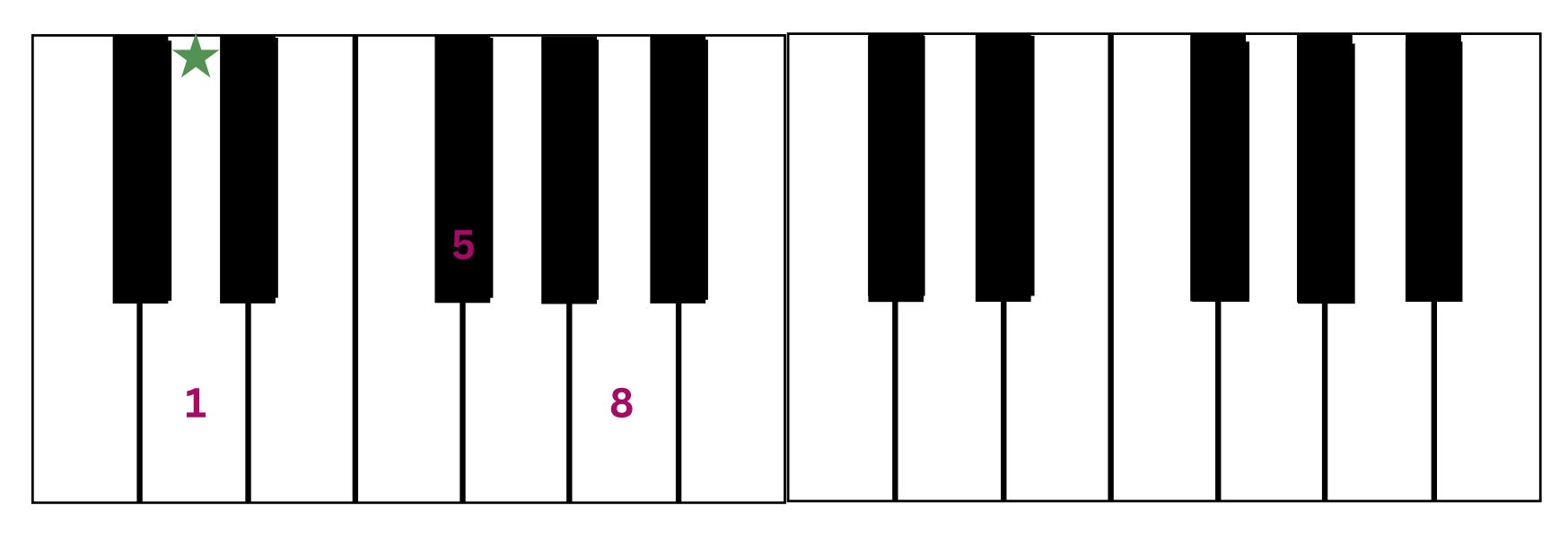
The second tonic will be double the sound frequency of the first tonic in the scale. This finishes the scale and brings it back home to safety. It always uses a major chord.

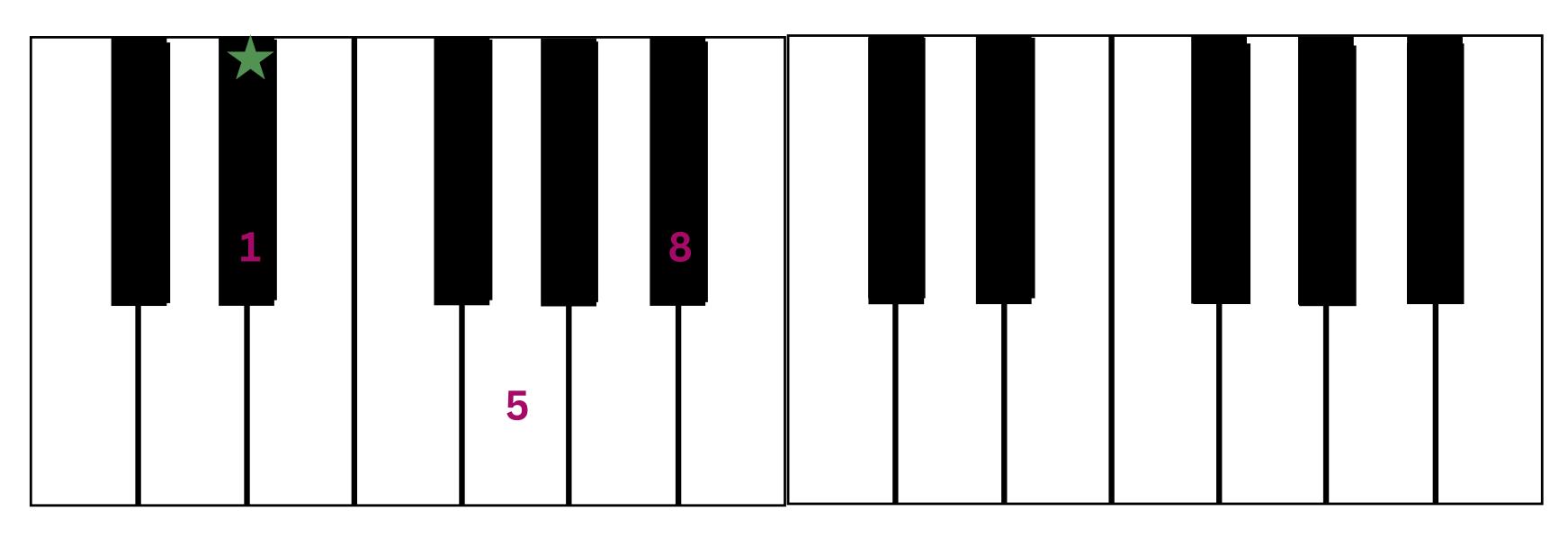


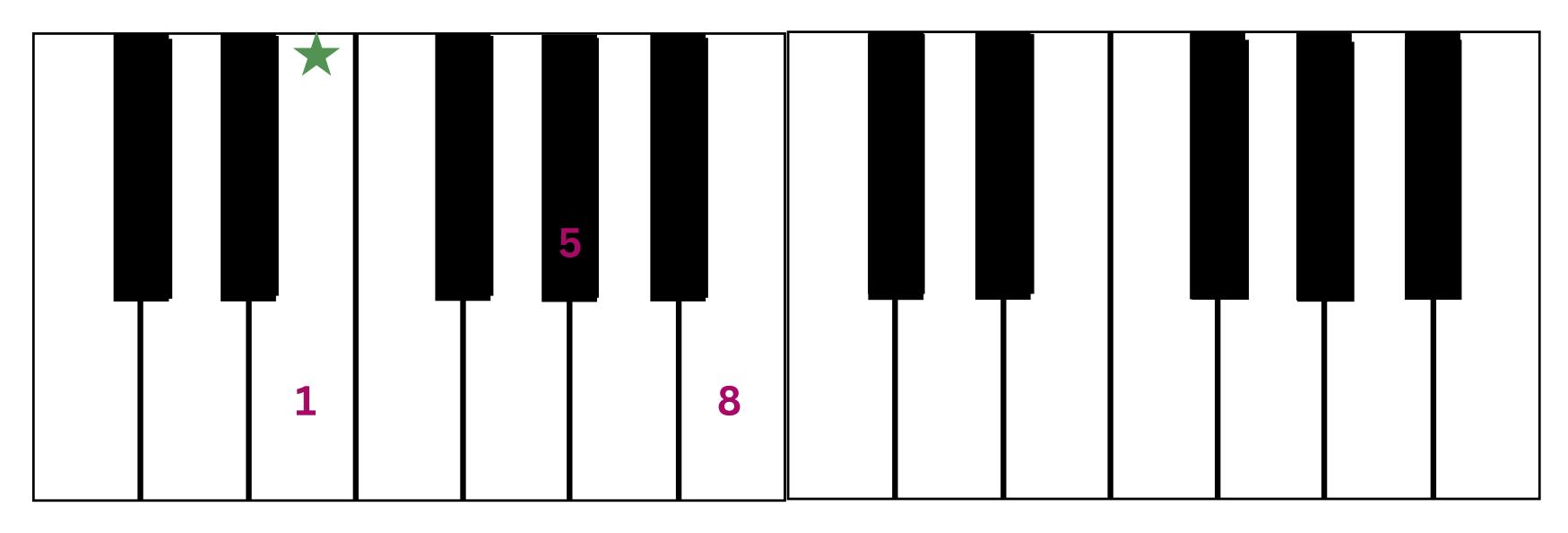
We can move this anywhere Here it is on Fixed 1

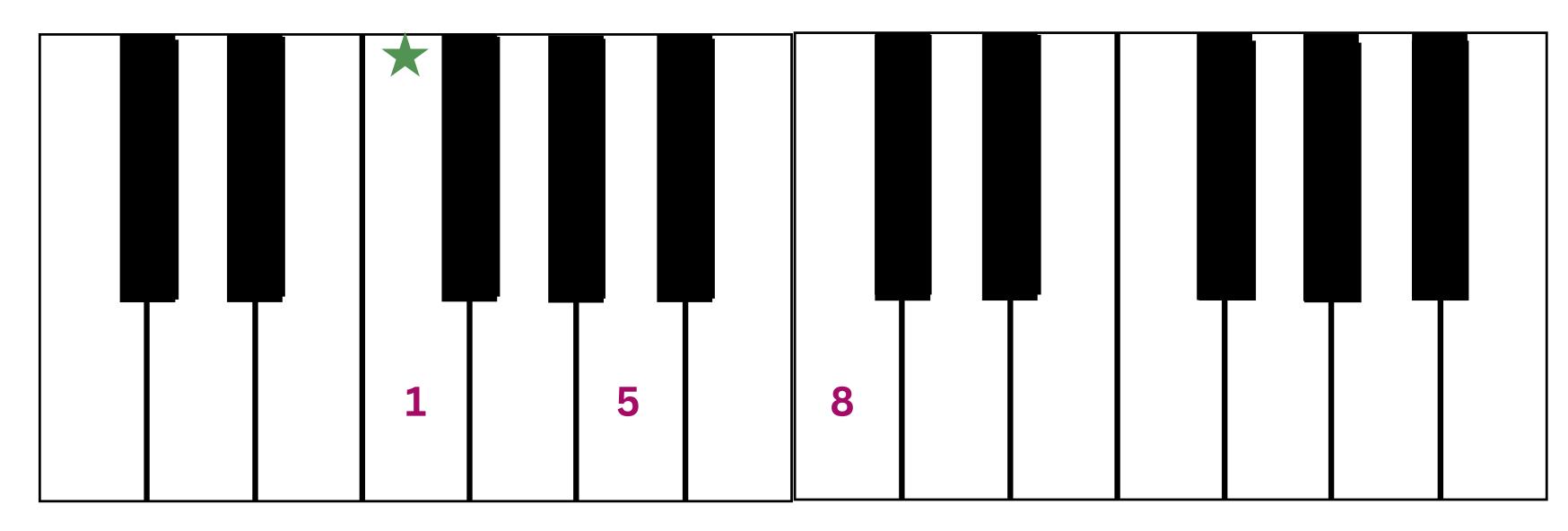


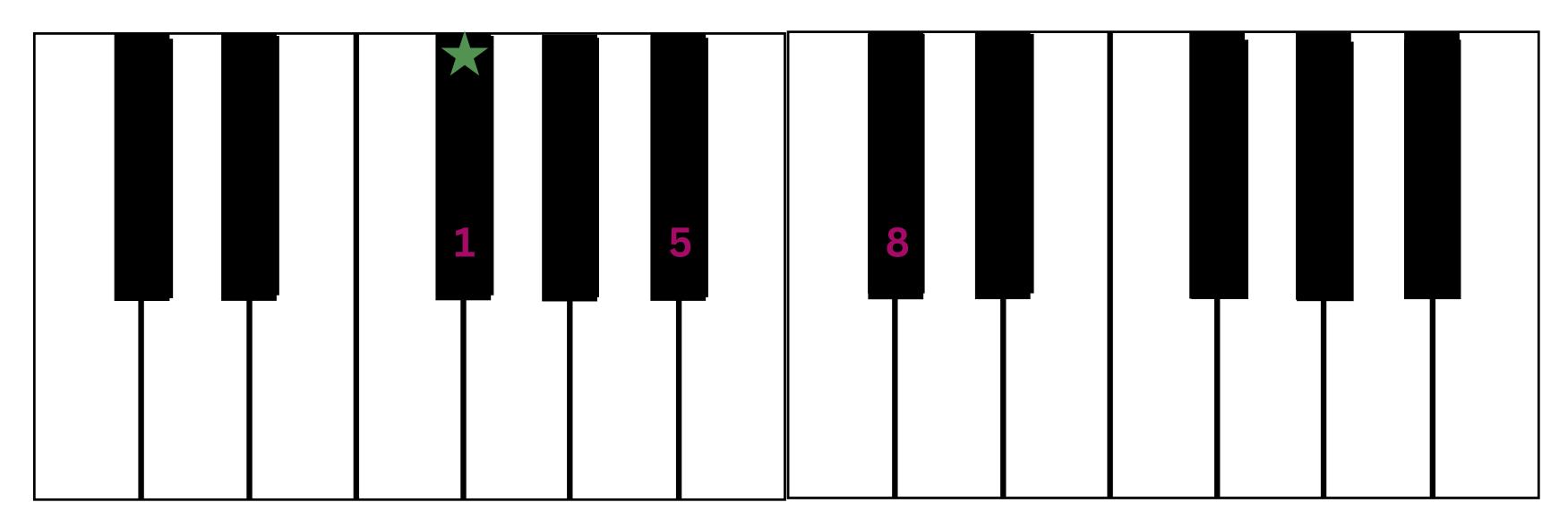
We use major chords on the 1st, 6th, and 8th scale degrees.

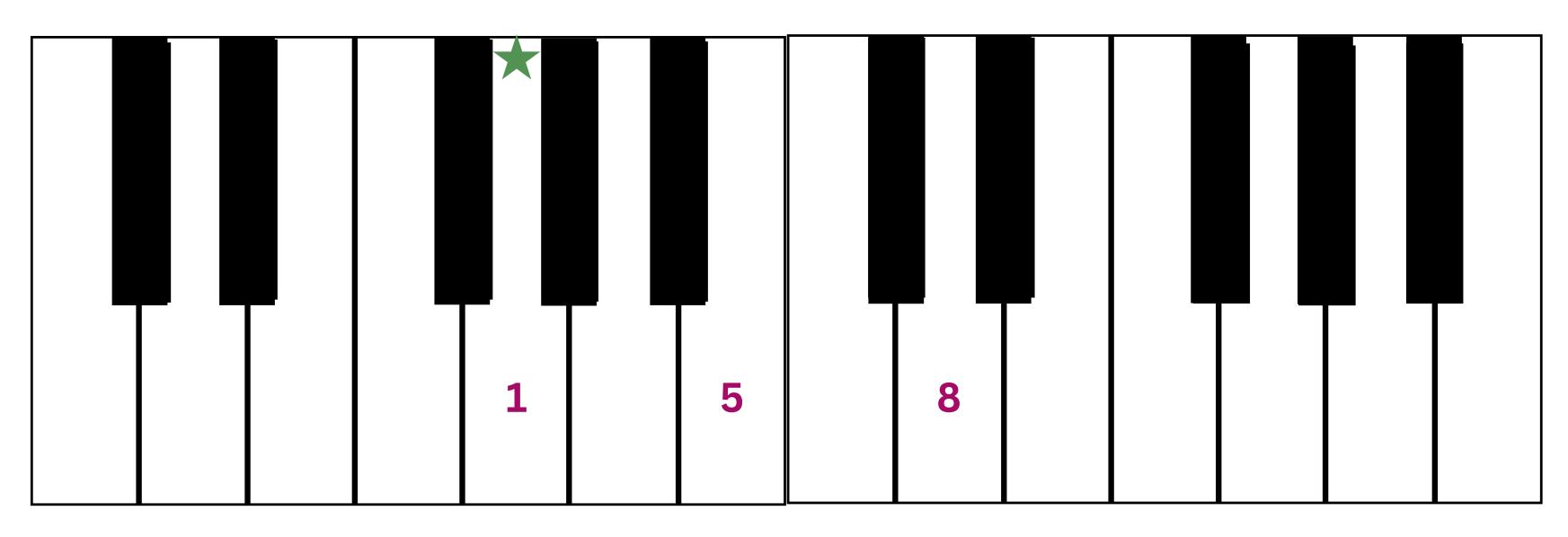


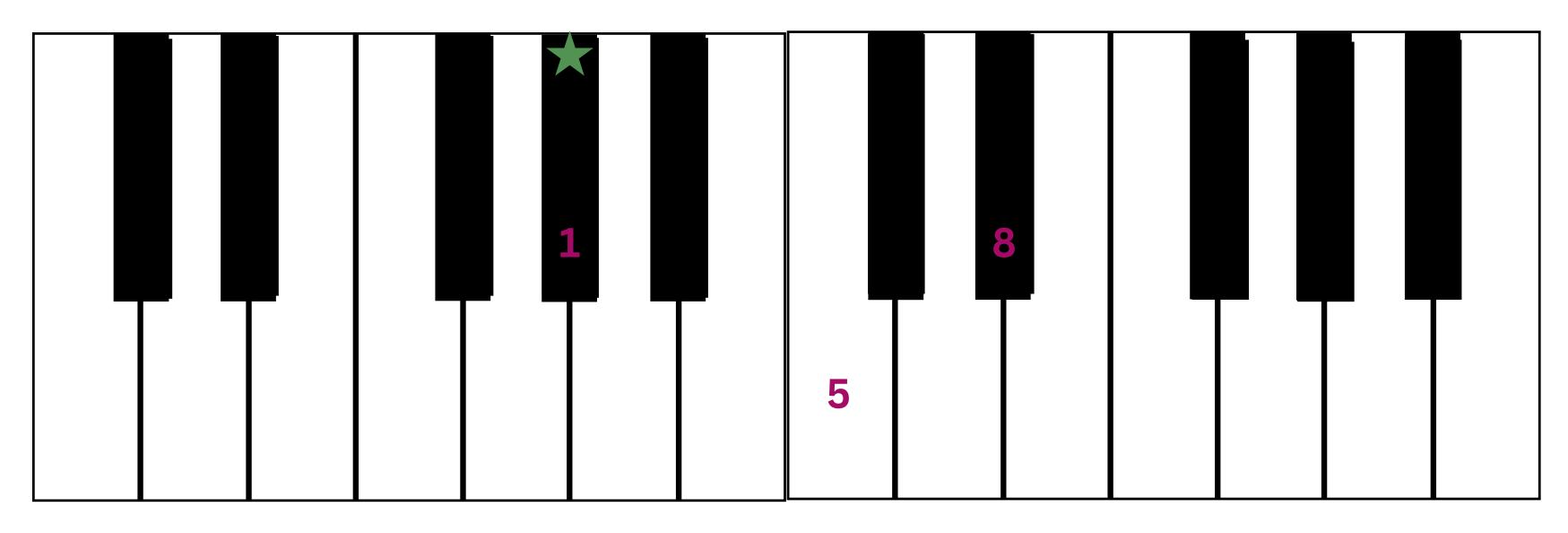


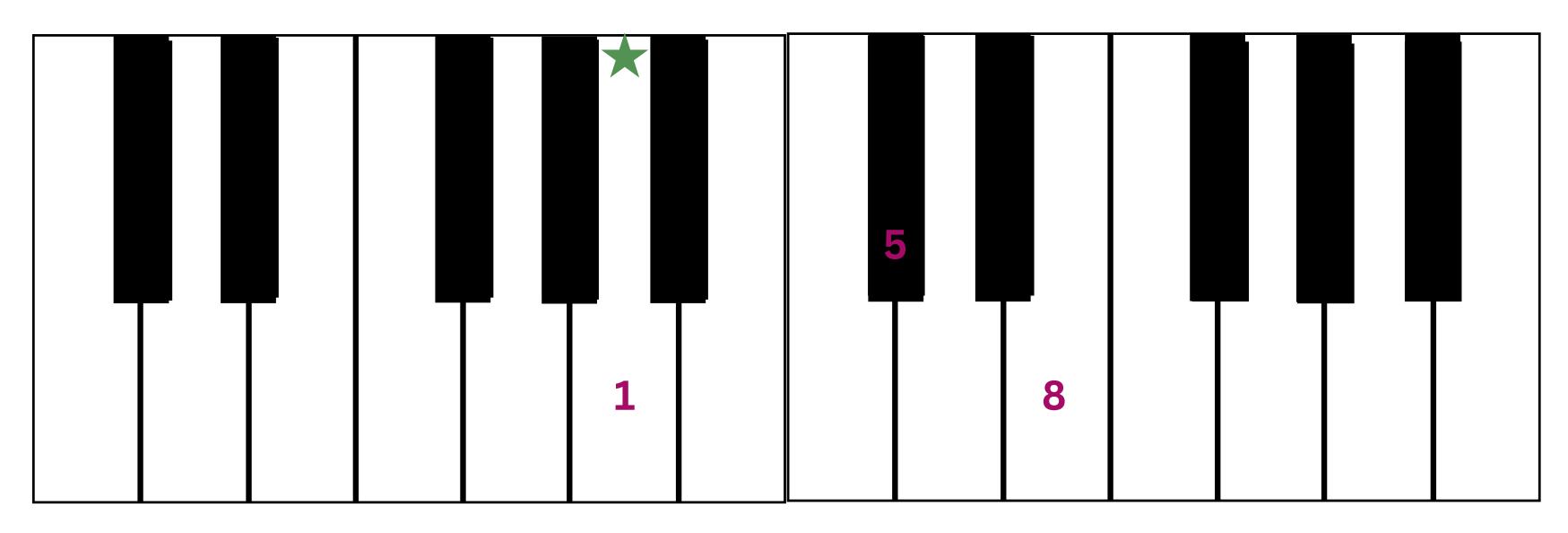


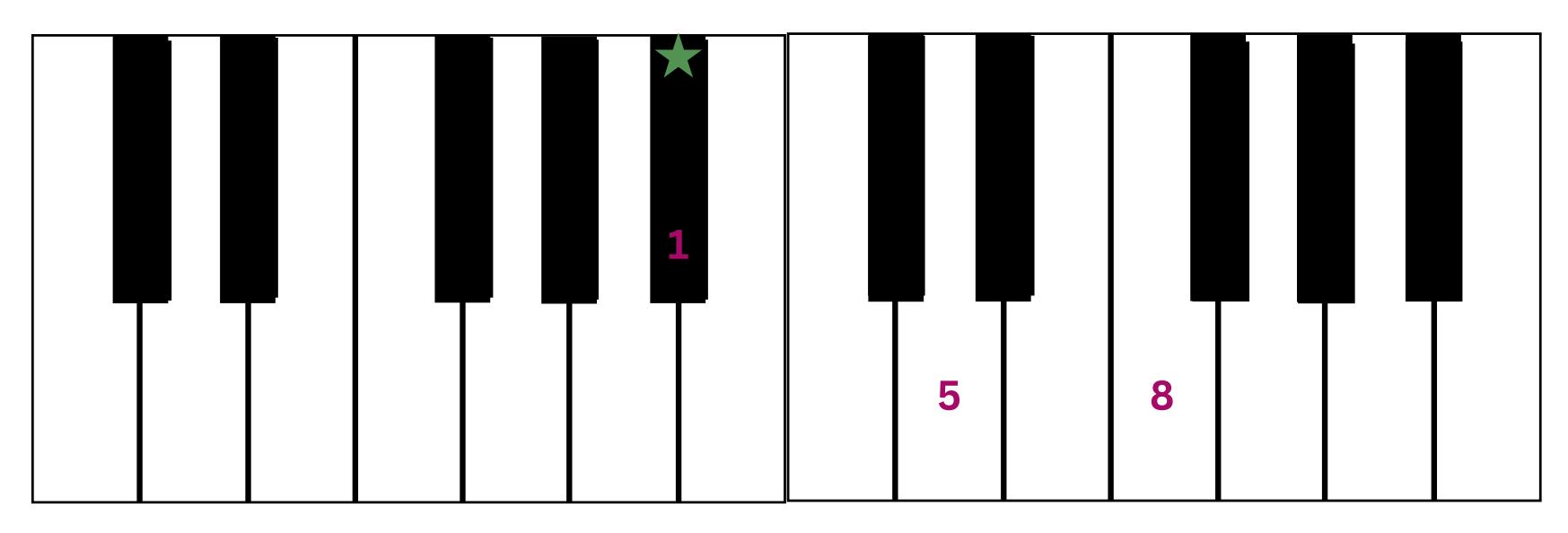


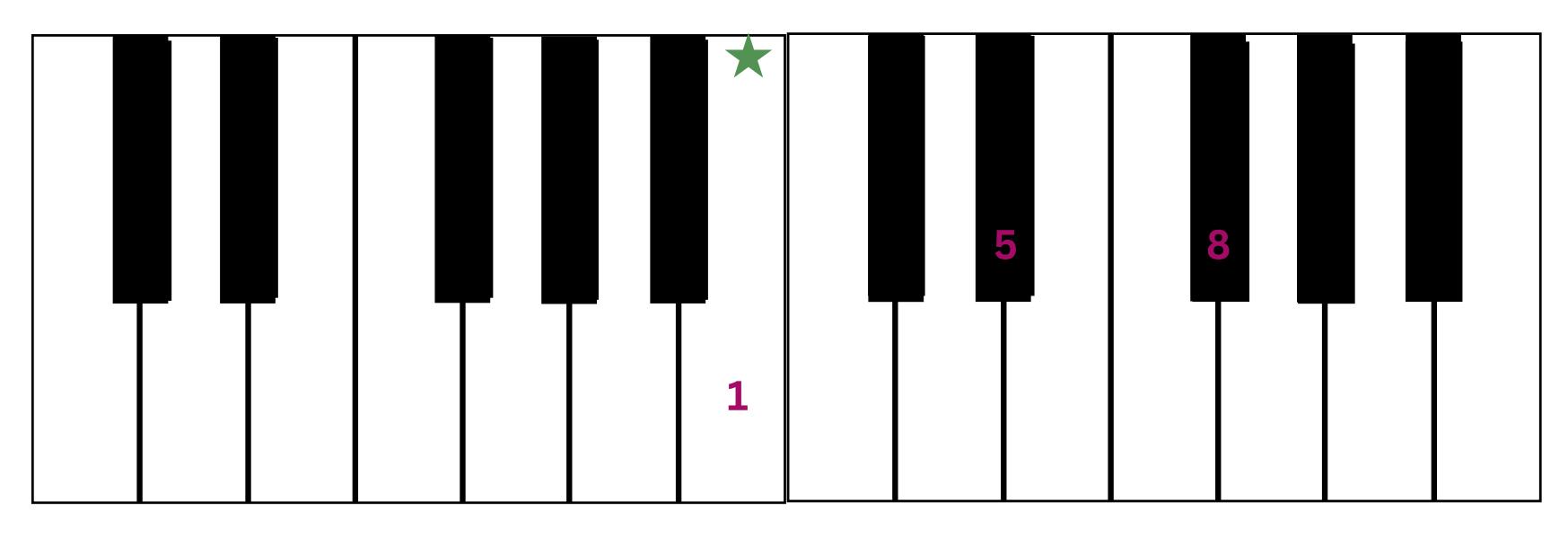




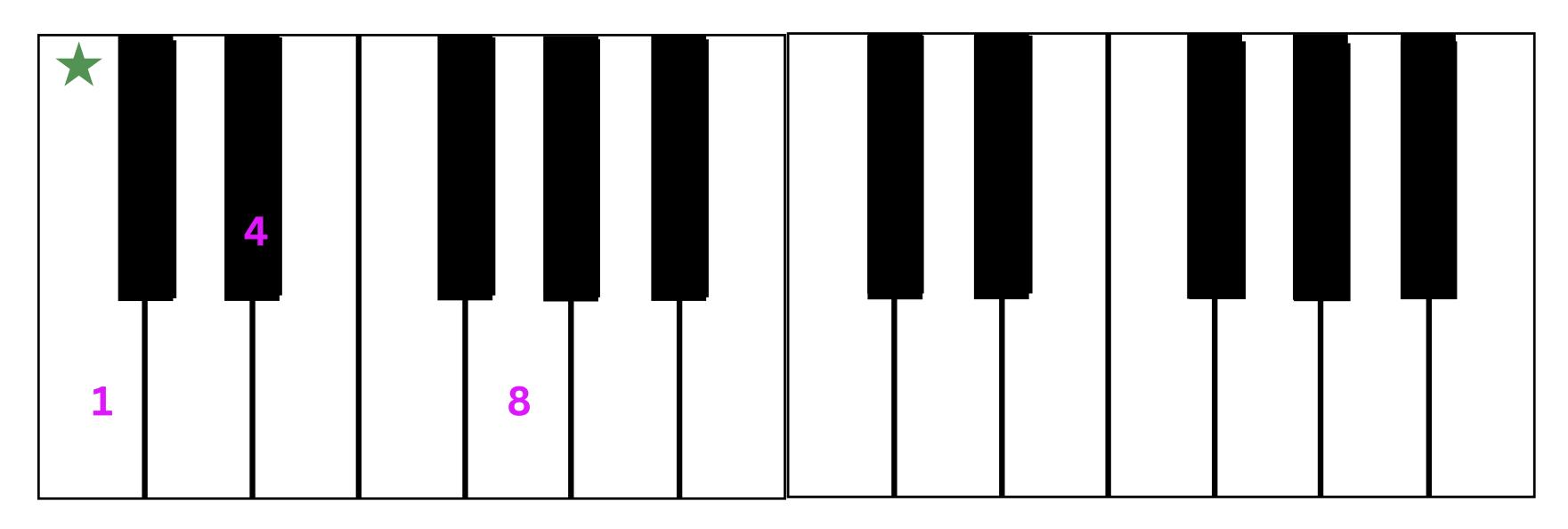






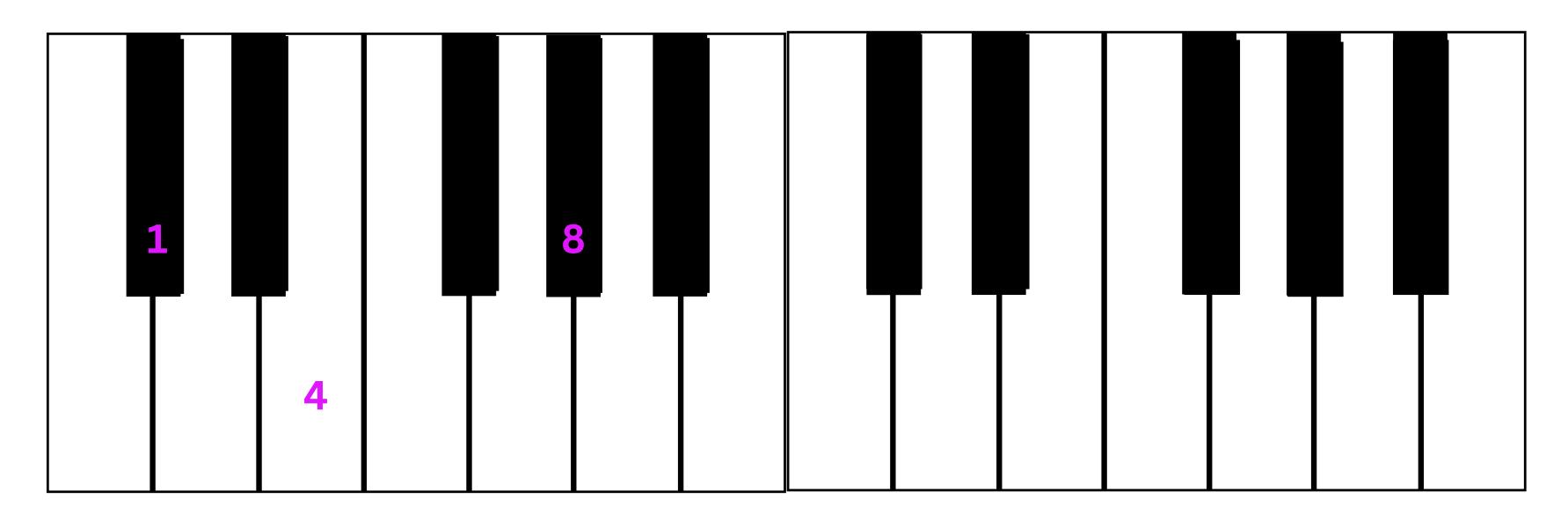


148 is called a Minor Chord



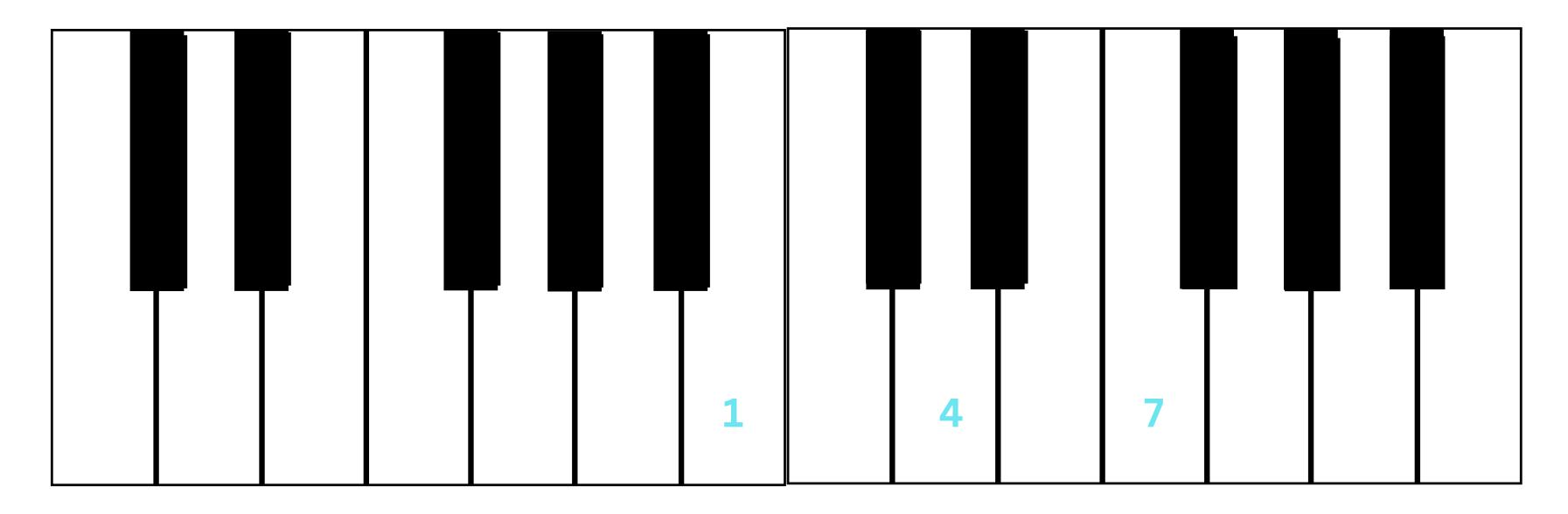
We can move this anywhere Here it is on Fixed 1

148 is called a Minor Chord



We use minor chords on the 3rd, 5th, and 10th scale degrees.

147 is called a Diminished Chord

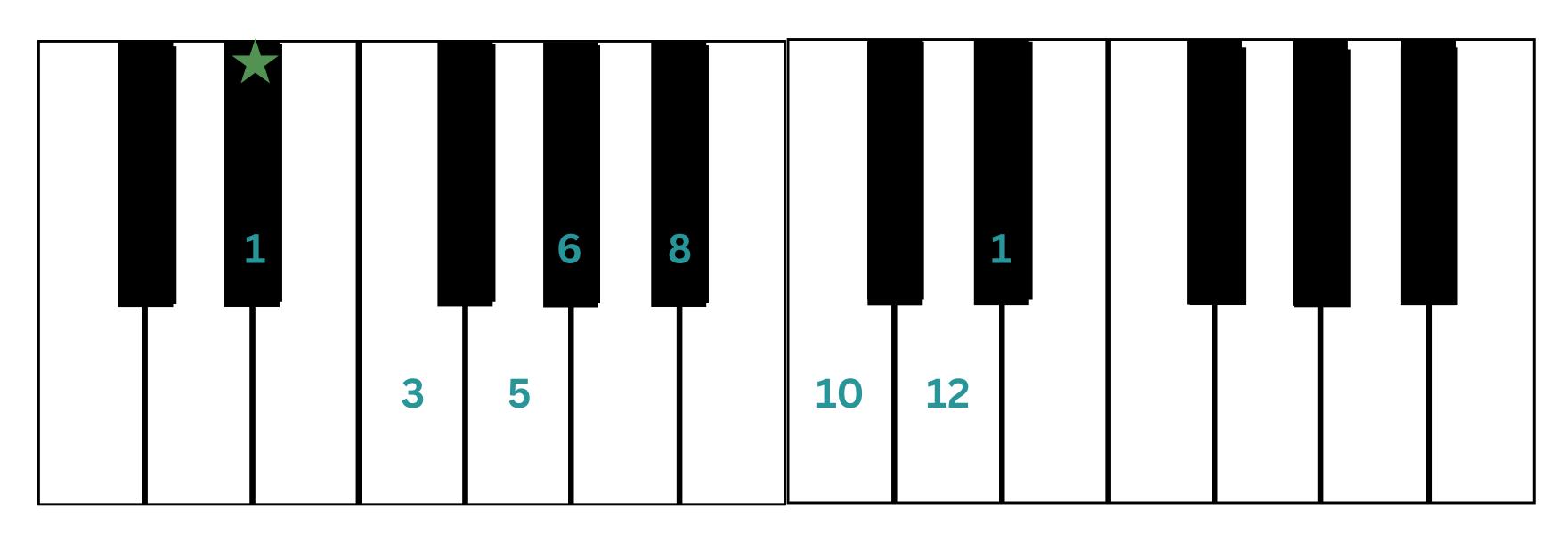


We use diminished chords on the 12th scale degree.

To play piano, we use the fixed notes, the major scale, and the chords all combined.

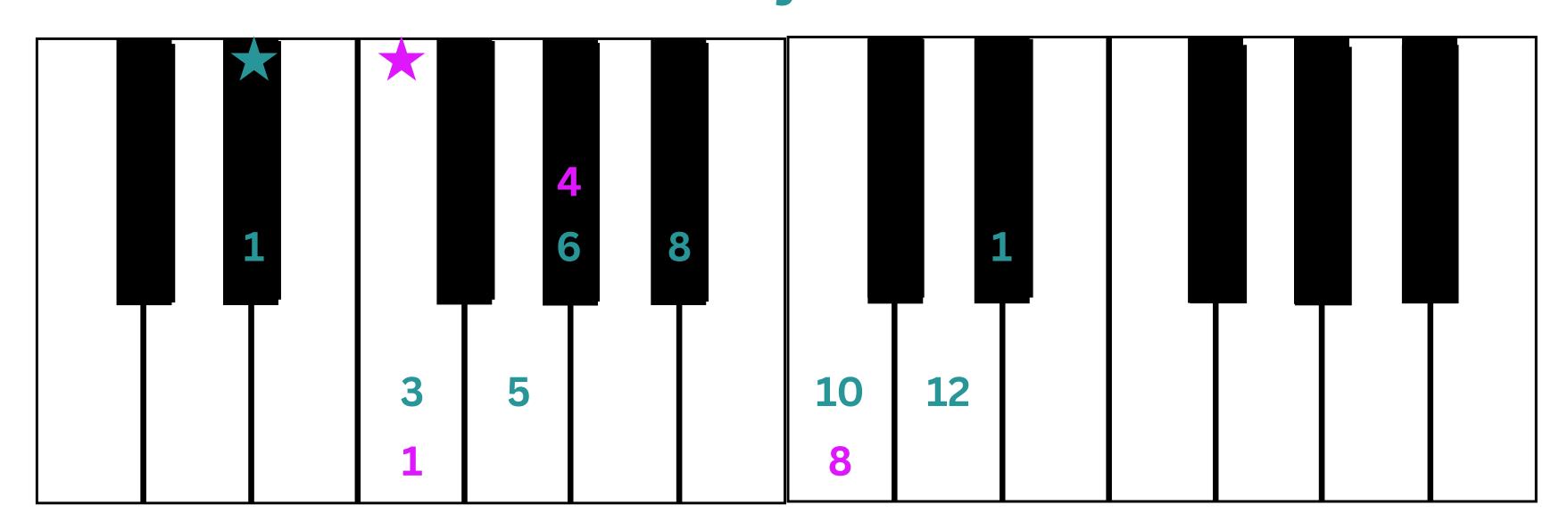
There are other scales and chords, but we'll add those later.

We can pick any key to start. This is the 4 Major Scale because it starts on Fixed 4.



To play it, we start our chords on the notes in this scale.

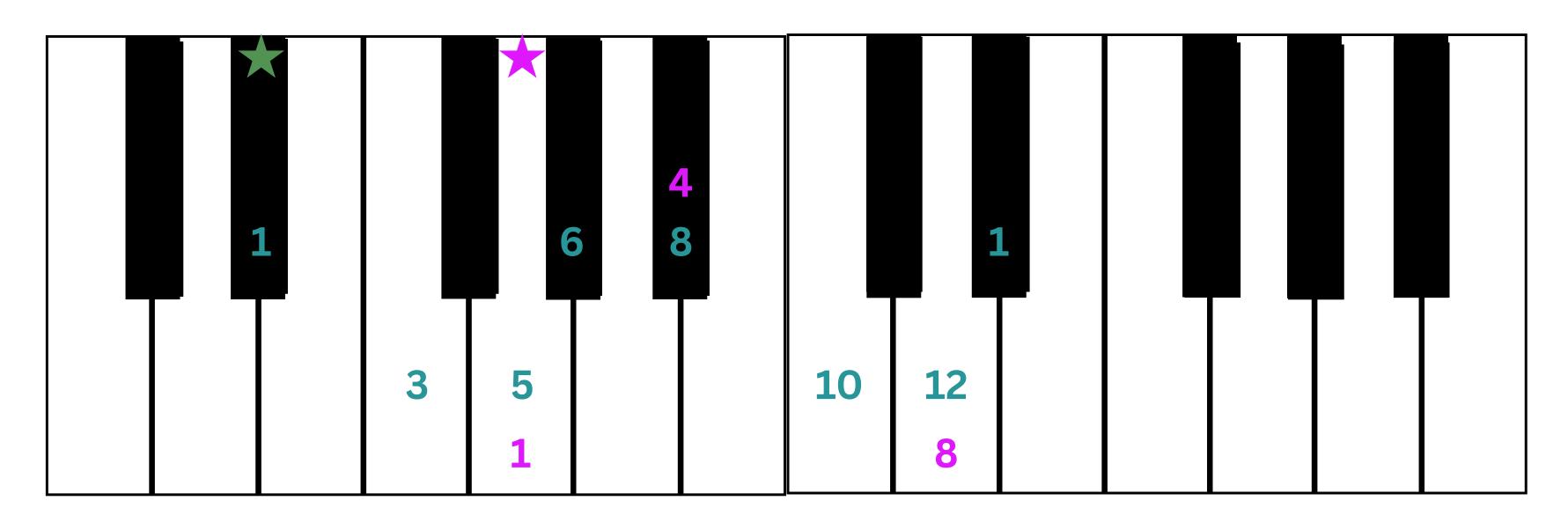
For example, this is a 6 minor chord we could play in this 4 major scale.



The scales teach us where to play the chords.

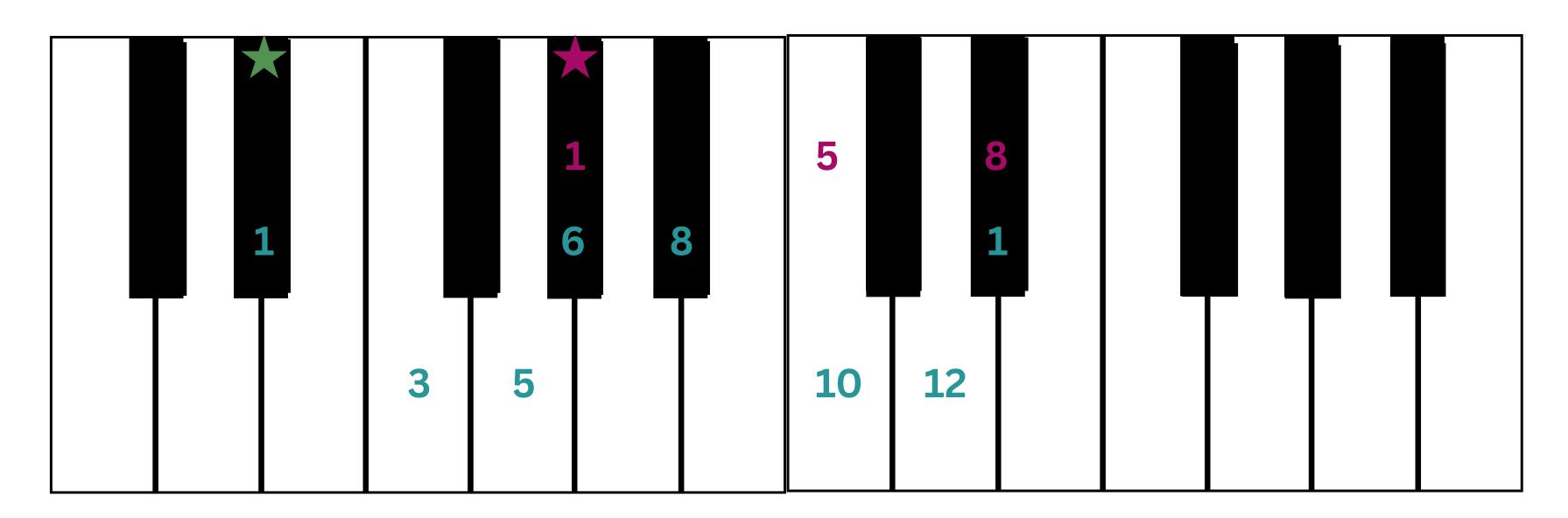
It's a 6 minor chord because it starts in Fixed 6, and it's a 4 major scale because it starts in Fixed 4.

This is an 8 minor chord in this 4 major scale. The scale starts on Fixed 4 and the chord starts on Fixed 8.



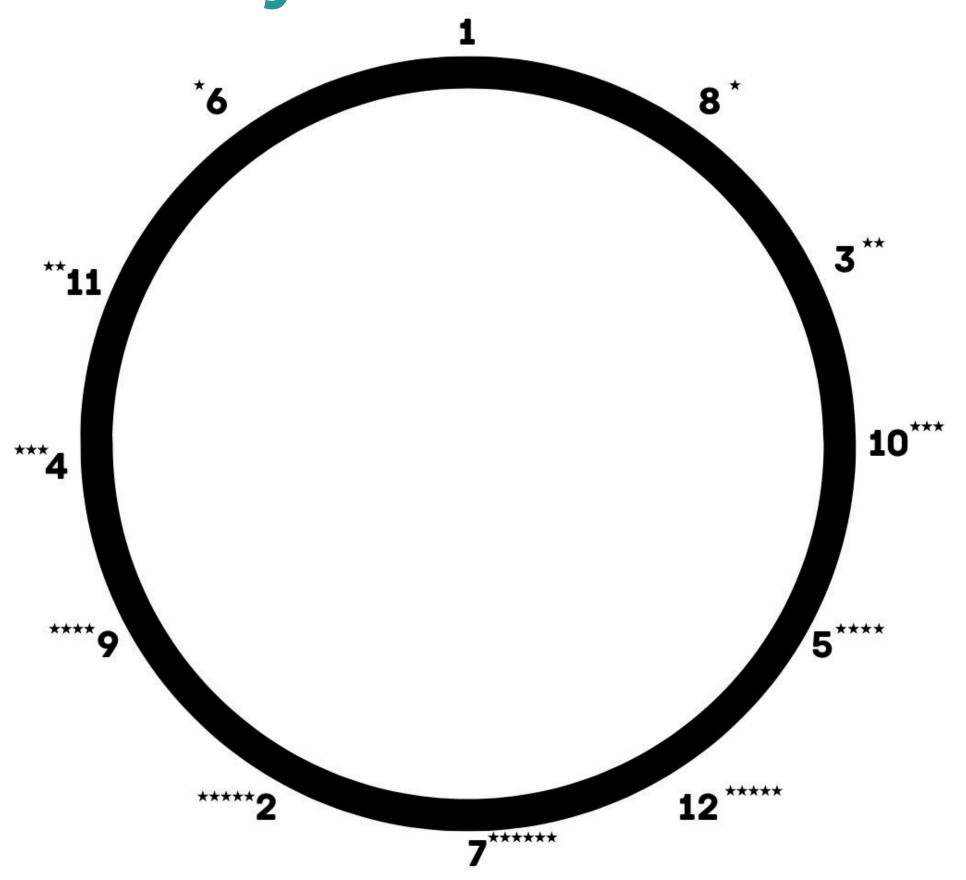
The scales are our map for which chords sound good to play together.

This is a 9 major chord in this 4 major scale. The scale starts on Fixed 4 and the chord starts on Fixed 9.

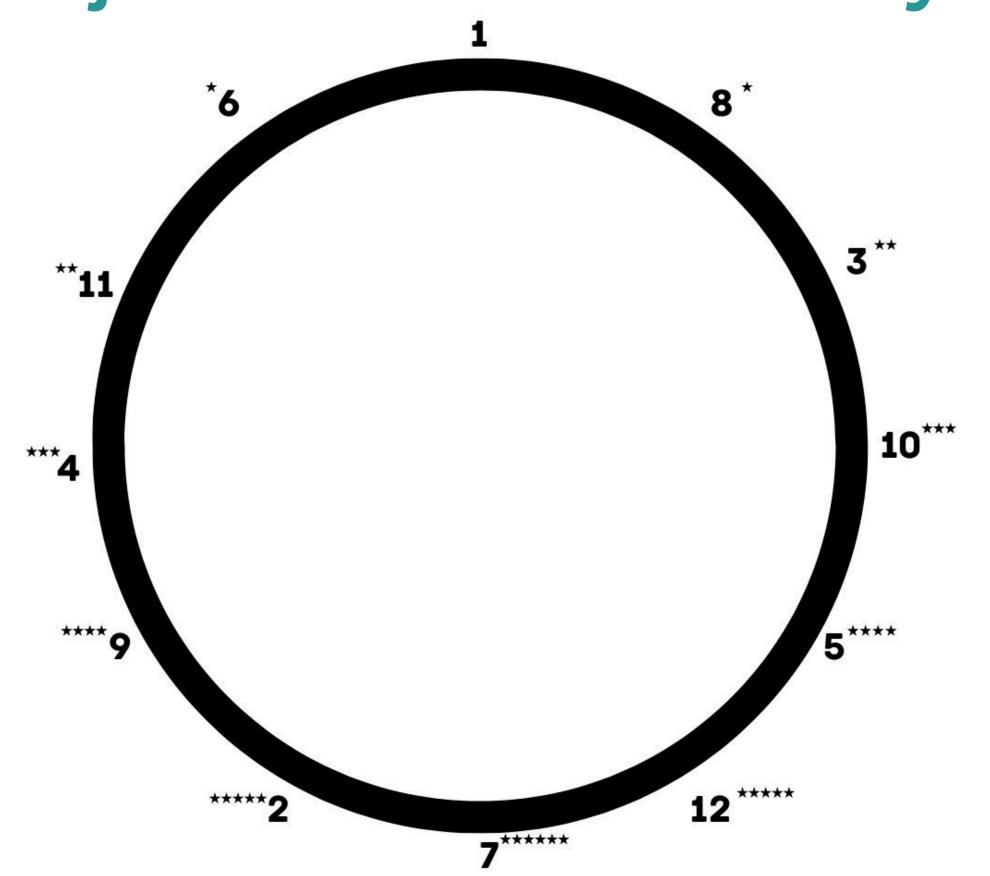


The scales are our map for which chords sound good to play together.

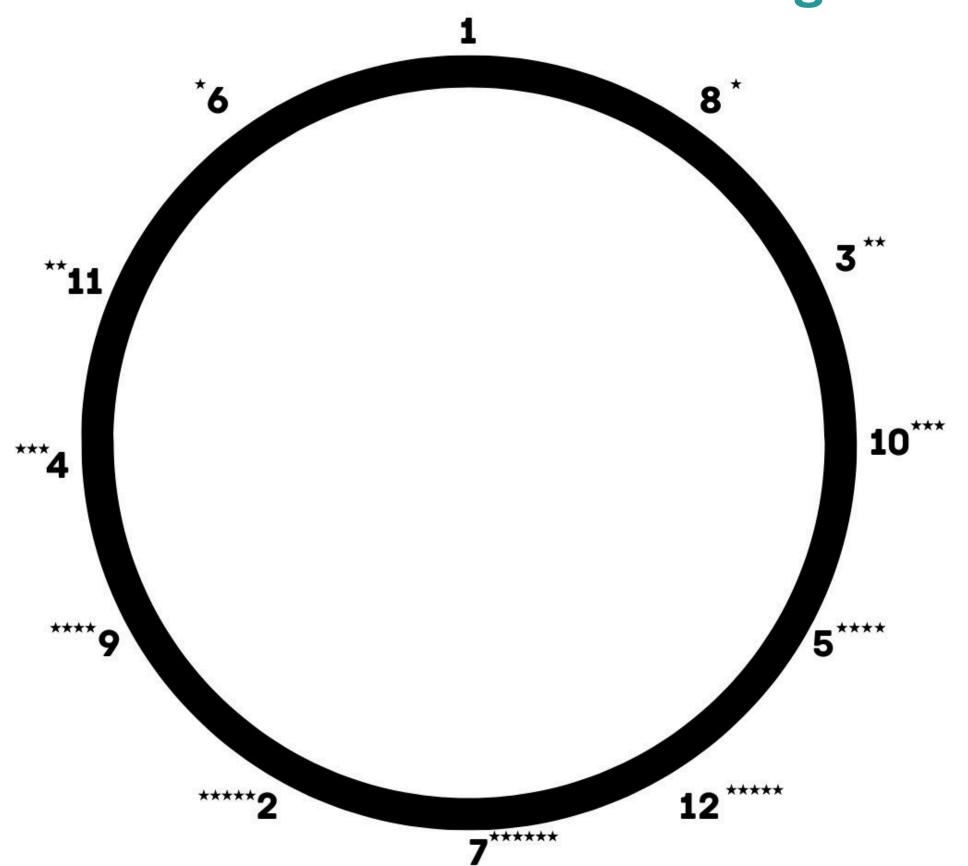
The stars here represent how many black keys a scale will have if you start on that Fixed Note.



For example, the 6 Major scale has 1 black key. The 9 Major scale has 4 black keys.



This circle also shows relationships between chords within scales. For example, many modern pop songs use chords that start on numbers 1, 6, and 8 of the scale that the song is in.



Color-Coded Formula Sheet

Major Scale - 1 3 5 6 8 10 12 1

Major Chord - 158

Minor Chord - 148

Diminished Chord - 147

Which Chords Go With Which Scale degrees

1 Tonic 1 Major

3 Supertonic 3 Minor

5 Mediant 5 Minor

6 Subdominant 6 Major

8 Dominant 8 Major

10 Submediant 10 Minor

12 Leading tone 12 Diminished

1 Tonic 1 Major

Formula Sheet

Major Scale - 1 3 5 6 8 10 12 1

Major Chord - 158

Minor Chord - 148

Diminished Chord - 147

Which Chords Go With Which Scale degrees

1 Tonic 1 Major

3 Supertonic 3 Minor

5 Mediant 5 Minor

6 Subdominant 6 Major

8 Dominant 8 Major

10 Submediant 10 Minor

12 Leading tone 12 Diminished

1 Tonic 1 Major

Practice Exercises

- 1. Pick a key and start the 1 3 5 6 8 10 12 1 Major Scale formula. Your fingers will get used to it and will do it naturally anywhere after you practice a bit.
- 2. Make patterns with only the keys in a scale. It might be hard to remember which keys you pressed at first. Keep practicing.
- 3. Say the scale degree numbers in your head as you make patterns.
- 4. Follow the color coded 1 3 5 6 8 10 12 1 major scale to make 158, 148, and 147 chords on the corresponding colors.
- 5. Start recognizing the feeling of the tonic (1st scale degree), and practice creating a buildup while playing the other scale degrees before settling at the tonic.

Note Ratios

1: 1/1

2:16/15

3:9/8

4: 6/5

5: 5/4

6: 4/3

7: $\sqrt{2}/1$

8: 3/2

9:8/5

10:5/3

11: 7/4

12: 15/8

1: 2/1