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Memorize These Commonly Used Major Diatonic Scales

1 Root Note or key	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Full Octave (same as 1)	
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A	3 sharps
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	none
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D	2 sharps
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#	E	4 sharps
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F	1 flat
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G	1 sharp

Note: There are many benefits to memorizing the major scales show above in keys that are most commonly used with guitar players. I'm not going to try to explain all the benefits as that would involve a lengthy discussion of music theory. Let me just share a few benefits:

- Knowing this chart will enable you to quickly transpose the chords of a song from one key to another. For example suppose the song is in the key of A and uses the following four chords: A, D, E and F#m. In the key of C those four chords will change to C, F, G, and Am.

- If you know this chart it will help you to figure out most of the chords of a song when all you have is the lyrics. You need to understand that the notes in positions 1, 4 and 5 are typically the most common major chords. For example in the key of G, the chords G, C and D are most common. You should also know the chords in positions 2, 3 and 6 are usually minor or minor 7^{th} chords. In the key of G it is common to use the chords Am, Bm and Em (or Am7, Bm7 and Em7). For many songs this knowledge alone will get you all of the chords.

You should also know that this chart can be expanded to include all keys. First by writing down all of the notes on the piano twice through as shown below.

A, A# (Bb), B, C, C# (Db), D, D# (Eb), E, F, F# (Gb), G, G# (Ab), A, A# (Bb), B, C, C# (Db), D, D# (Eb), E, F, F# (Gb), G, G#, A

This is also known as the Chromatic Scale (twice through)

Then start at the note corresponding to the key and label that note position 1 or the root note. To obtain the notes in positions 2 through 8 make the following jumps: 2-2-1-2-2-2-1 (where 1 is a single semitone or a single jump and 2 refers to two semitones or two jumps).

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