Music Theory (Bass Clef)

Unit 1: Scale and Transposition Lesson 4: Transposition by Key

Transposition is when you change a melody from one key to another. Once you've mastered scale degrees, transposition is quite easy. Check out the step by step example:

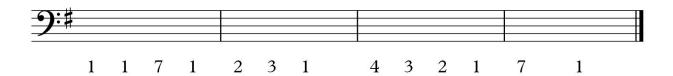
Here is the original melody, in the Key of C Major



Step 1: Figure out the scale degrees for this melody



Step 2: Apply those scale degrees to a new key. In this case, I've chosen G Major. Remember the new key signature (F#, in this case)



Last step: Write out the new notes (based on the G Major scale) using the scale degrees you've figured out



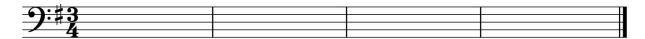
Congrats! Now that you have mastered the concept of scale degrees, you should be able to easily transpose melodies into any key you want. Let's try a few examples:

Transposition 1:

Transpose this excerpt from "Mexican Hat Dance" from the F Major to G Major



Write the melody in G Major here:



Transposition 2:

Transpose this excerpt from "Lightly Row" from C Major to F Major



Write the melody in F Major here:

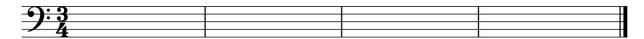


Transposition 3:

Transpose this excerpt from "Minuet 3" from G Major to C Major



Write the melody in C Major here:



New Key Signature!

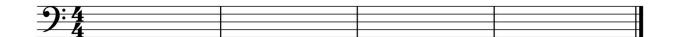
We will now learn the Key of D major, which has two sharps (F# and C#). Look at the scale below and write in the scale degrees:



Now take this excerpt from "Go Tell Aunt Rhody" in D Major and transpose it into all 3 keys we've learned so far. Since the key of D Major is new, I've written the scale degrees to help out:



Transpose to C Major:



Transpose to F Major:



Transpose to G Major:

