

Music Theory (Alto Clef)
Unit 1: Scale and Transposition
Lesson 5: Introducing Altered Scale Degrees

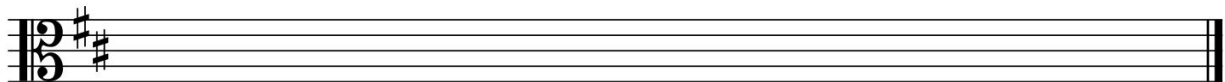
Let's examine, the D Major scale, which has F# and C#. **Write your note names here:**



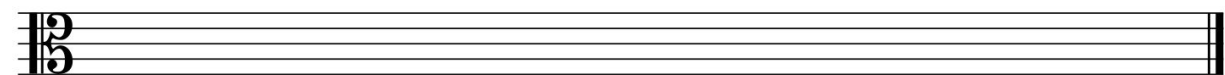
Now, write in the scale degrees. Since the scale is descending, Start with 1, then 7...



Next, compose your own melody in the key of D Major. I've added the key signature for you, but you need to add a **time signature and bar lines**. For whatever time signature you choose, make sure the notes in each measure add up to the number of beats/measure you've chosen. One last thing... **make sure you melody starts and ends on tonic** (scale degree 1):

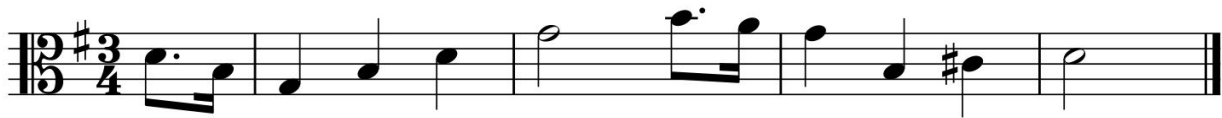


Now, transpose your composition into the Key of C Major.

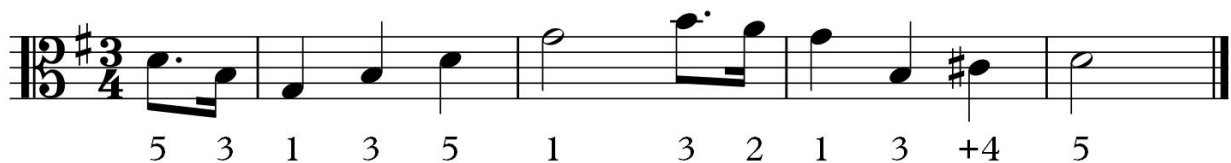


So far, all of the melodies we've worked with have stayed entirely in the key of the scale they are based on. Many melodies, however, will add accidentals to some notes which are not in the key signature. How do we deal with this? It's actually very easy. If a note is raised, we will mark it with a plus sign. If it is lowered, we will mark it with a minus.

Let's look at a familiar example from the National Anthem:



This melody is in the key of G Major, but you'll notice that there is a C# in the 3rd measure. Look at the scale degrees below. In the key of G, C is scale degree 4. Since the C is raised from natural to sharp, we will mark it as a +4.



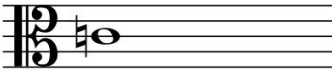
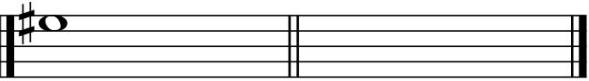
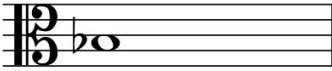
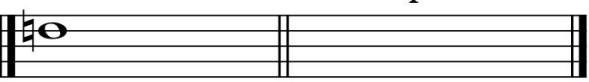
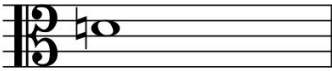
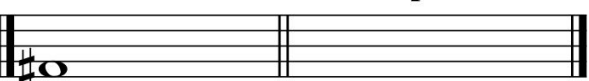
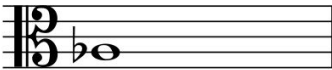
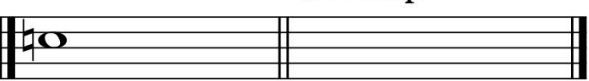
Now, let's transpose this melody to a different key. We will be transposing it to the key of C Major. Since our altered tone is a +4, we will need to add an accidental to alter that tone in the new key. Since the 4th scale degree of the C Major Scale is F natural, we will raise it to F#.



Now is a good time to review sharps, flats and naturals. A sharp is a half step **higher** than a natural. A flat is a half step **lower** than a natural.

Flat	Natural	Sharp
b	♮	#
lower	<i>natural</i>	higher

If you raise a natural, it becomes a sharp. If you raise a flat, it becomes a natural. On the other hand, if you lower a natural, it becomes a flat. If you lower a sharp, it becomes a natural. **In the following exercise, re-write the note but change the accidental as directed.** Go ahead and mark a “natural” on the natural notes (although technically this isn’t required):

raise a 1/2 step 	lower a 1/2 step 
raise a 1/2 step 	lower a 1/2 step 
raise a 1/2 step 	lower a 1/2 step 
raise a 1/2 step 	lower a 1/2 step 

Look at these melodies. **Circle the altered tone(s) and draw an arrow indicated which way the note was altered.** Draw an “up” arrow for raised notes, and a “down” arrow for lowered notes:

