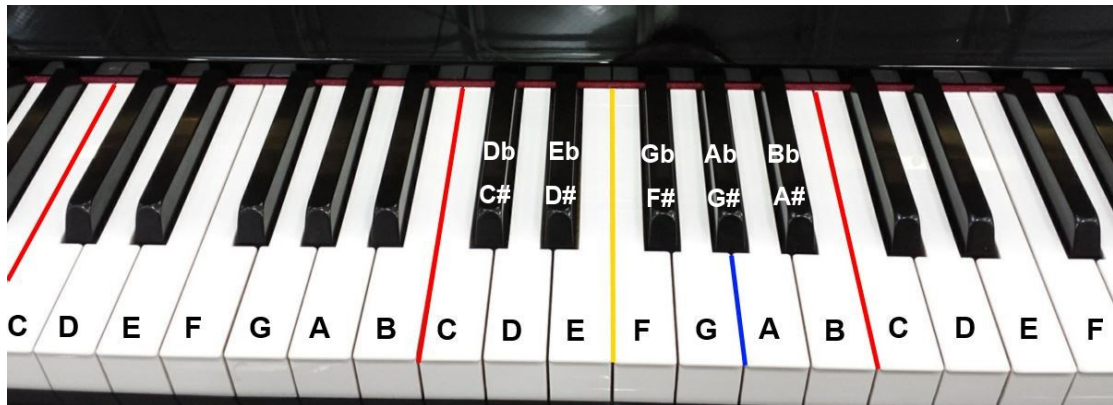


# Understanding Note Structures

## Going Up



You do not need to know this, but the notes we play on the ukulele are the same notes that appear on a piano keyboard. They are called the same for every instrument. They go up in sound, or down, depending on which way you progress across the keyboard.

The diagrams above show you the progression from middle C on a piano. You will note that some notes have different names, depending on the key that the music is written in. The notes are either sharp (if going up the scale) or flat (if going down the scale). They are, however, exactly the same note

## Understanding the Chromatic Scale

Reference: <https://takelessons.com/blog/ukulele-notes-chart-z10>

Each note that you'll learn to play on the ukulele will be a part of what is known as the chromatic scale. This scale consists of the 12 notes standard in Western style music.

You may have heard the chromatic scale explained in the “do-re-me-fa-so-la-ti-do” song, from the movie *The Sound of Music*. It's also commonly used as a teaching tool in elementary music classes.

This 12 note set starts with seven “pure notes.” The pure notes of the scale are: A – B – C – D – E – F – G

In between most of these notes there is a sharp and flat. Together, they complete the 12 note set that is described as an “octave.” Once you complete the 12 notes, you'll start over with the same notes, just an octave higher or lower.

On the ukulele, each fret is only “half a step,” or half a note, apart. The in-between notes are named with sharps (#) and flats (b). A sharp is half a step up, and a flat is half a step down.

For example, a “Bb” (or “B flat”) is half a step down from the B note, but not yet an A. An “F#” (or “F sharp”) is half a step up from F, but not yet a G.

With sharps and flats added in, the scale looks like this: A – A#/Bb – B – C – C#/Db – D – D#/Eb – E – F – F#/Gb – G – G#/Ab

Although the half steps are described as either “sharp” or “flat,” they are essentially the same note. In other words, A# and Bb are the same note.