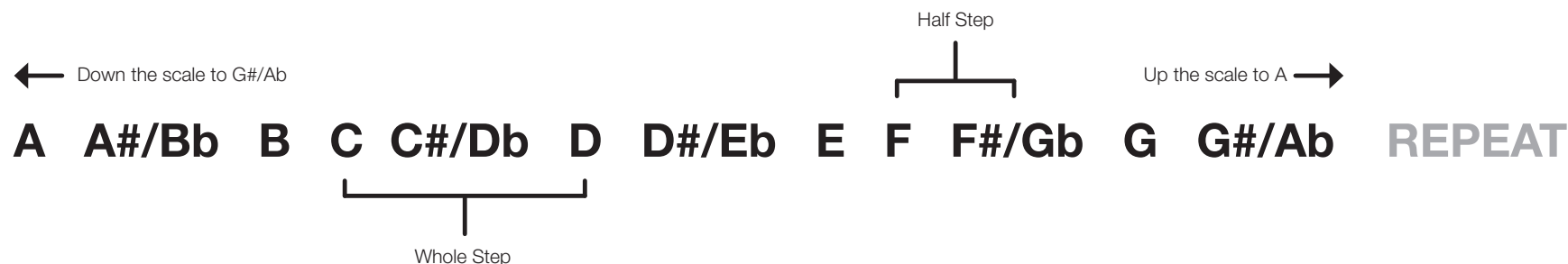


the chromatic scale

Any collection of notes is called a **scale**, and the set of 12 parent notes is called **the chromatic scale**. Basically, the notes in the chromatic scale are named alphabetically, from A to G, with a little variation in between some of the letters. Here's the whole scale.

The Chromatic Scale



These are the essential things you need to know about the chromatic scale:

- The "#/b" is pronounced "sharp/flat," so A#/Bb is said, "A sharp/B flat."
- Notes separated by slashes have the same sound (or pitch), but two different names. What you call it depends on context. For example, when you see A#/Bb, it means that A# and Bb sound exactly the same, and as such, are played exactly the same way on an instrument. The note is called one or the other depending on the situation. **For now, just think of the note as "A sharp/B flat" in its entirety, and leave it at that.**
- Moving one note in either direction is called moving a **half step**. So, going from A to A#/Bb is one half step. So is going from C back to B.
- Moving two consecutive notes in either direction is called a **whole step**. So, going from A to B is one whole step. So is going from C back to A#/Bb.
- Anytime you move toward the right, you are moving "up" the scale, which produces a more shrill, or higher-sounding pitch than the previous note. If you go toward the left, you move "down" the scale and produce a deeper, or lower-sounding note than the one you came from.
- The chromatic scale is an infinite loop either way. As you go up the scale, when you hit G#/Ab, the next note is A again and the loop starts over. If you're going down the scale and hit A, the next note is G#/Ab. There is no H note.
- You can start the loop of the scale from any note. Just remember that when you hit G#/Ab, the loop flips over to A. For instance, you might see the scale written like this: **C C#/Db D D#/Eb E F F#/Gb G G#/Ab A A#/Bb B**. Take special note of what happened after G#/Ab.