



MELODIC INTERVALS WORKOUT

for melodica, piano and other keyboard instruments

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on the melodica and other mini-keyboard instruments

Melodicamente 2

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1. Introduction to Intervals¹

An *interval* in music is the distance between two notes. When the second note is higher than the first one, the interval is *ascending*; otherwise it is *descending*. For the rest of this book we will consider ascending intervals only.

A *melodic* interval consists of a couple of notes played one after the other and not simultaneously (as opposed to a *harmonic* interval, where the notes are played together).

We can measure the distance between two notes/pitches in semi-tones, cents², ratios, etc. but there is also a mnemonic nomenclature that refers to the C major scale (C - D - E - F - G - A - B). In the latter case, every interval has a *name* and a *quality*.

The name is simply how many steps of the major scale are involved in the interval. For example, an interval between C and F involves four steps (C - D - E - F), so it's called **a fourth** (4th). If we must name an interval that goes beyond the scale, we simply extend it by repeating the notes. For example, the interval between a B and an F involves five steps (B - C - D - E - F), so it is called **a fifth** (5th). If the interval is greater than one octave, we continue our enumeration, so that we can have 9ths, 10ths, 11ths, and so on.

The interval between two same notes is said **a unison**, while the interval between two notes at an octave distance is obviously called **an octave**.

1 This chapter is an extract from my book "Foundation and Practice of Music" available on Amazon.com and is intended as a guide for music beginners. More experienced players can skip to the next chapter.

2 A **cent** is 1/100 of a semi-tone.

SAMPLE PAGE

2.1. White→White intervals

In Table 3 you can find the seven basic melodic intervals of the first class, white to white keys, and their equivalences. There are 49 intervals in total (from second to octave) that can be reduced to 7, in terms of muscle memory.

REFERENCE INTERVAL	SEMITONES	EXAMPLE	EQUIVALENT TO
Major 2 nd	2	C - D	D - E, F - G, G - A, A - B (E - F, B - C)
Major 3 rd	4	C - E	F - A, G - B (D - F, E - G, A - C, B - D)
Perfect 4 th	5	C - F	D - G, E - A, G - C, A - D, B - E (F - B)
Perfect 5 th	7	C - G	D - A, E - B, F - C, G - D, A - E (B - F)
Major 6 th	9	C - A	D - B, F - D, G - E (E - C, A - F, B - G)
Major 7 th	11	C - B	F - E (D - C, E - D, G - F, A - G, B - A)
Octave	12	C - C	D - D, E - E, F - F, G - G, A - A, B - B

TABLE 3: WHITE TO WHITE INTERVALS AND THEIR EQUIVALENCES

SAMPLE PAGE

7. m3

8. m3

9. m3

10. M3

11. M3

12. M3

13. M3

14. P4

15. P4

16. P4

17. P4

18. #4