

G. The Tempered Scale:

Make all intervals the same for the 12 notes. Create an interpolated musical scale, known as the tempered scale with 12 equally-spaced semitones for the 12 notes of this musical scale – then divide up the octave into 1200 cents. Thus, 100 cents = 1 tempered semitone, and one octave = 12 tempered semitones. Not a “perfect” musical scale by any means, but the main advantage is can then play a given piece of music in any key, without it sounding “worse” in one key than another.

We can mathematically define the semitone in the tempered scale as: $a = (2)^{1/12} = 1.05946$. Then one cent, $1\phi = (2)^{1/1200} = 1.000577$ in the tempered scale. Each note is built up from previous note by adding one power of the semitone, a , as shown in the figure below:

	D \flat	E \flat		G \flat	A \flat	B \flat				
	C \sharp	D \sharp		F \sharp	G \sharp	A \sharp				
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C			
	a	a^3		a^6	a^8	a^{10}				
1	a^2	a^4	a^5	a^7	a^9	a^{11}	a^{12}			
	1.059	1.189		1.414	1.587	1.782				
1.000	1.122	1.260	1.335	1.498	1.682	1.888	2.000			

FIG. 10. The tempered scale.

The 2nd note D is obtained from C by a^2 , the twelfth (*i.e.* octave) high-C note is obtained from the low-C by a factor of a^{12} , etc.

H.) Location of Frets on the Fretboard of a Guitar (Tempered Scale):

For the tempered semitone, $a = (2)^{1/12} = 1.05946$, then for a scale length L :

For the first 12 frets on the fretboard (first octave), where $n = \text{fret \# (1-12)}$:

$$\text{Fret Location}_{n\text{-th fret}} = L / 2^{\frac{n}{12}}$$

For frets 13-24 on the fretboard (2nd octave), where $n = \text{fret \# (13-24)}$:

$$\text{Fret Location}_{n\text{-th fret}} = \frac{1}{2} L / 2^{\frac{n}{12}}$$

For frets 25-36 on the fretboard (3rd octave), where $n = \text{fret \# (25-36)}$:

$$\text{Fret Location}_{n\text{-th fret}} = \frac{1}{4} L / 2^{\frac{n}{12}}$$