

KEYBOARD SETTING

Description of a keyboard

Keyboard is a musical instrument that produces sound through a set of keys. The keys of a keyboard are arranged horizontally according to their pitches. A standard key board has 88 keys. There are two types of keys found on a keyboard namely white and black keys.

Arrangement and naming of white keys

The keys are named using the first seven letter of the English alphabet called musical alphabet: **A B C D E F** and **G**. The black keys are arranged in twos and threes. The white key before any two set of black keys is named **C** while the white key before any three set of black keys is named **F**. Hence from one white key (before any two set of black key) and another one, we have **C D E F G A B** and **C**.

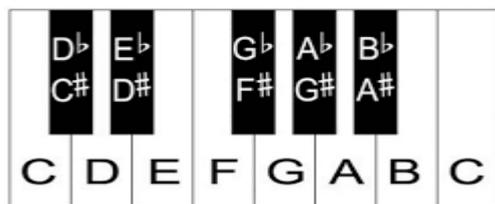


Naming of black keys

As stated earlier, the black keys are arranged in twos and threes. The black keys are named from the names of the white keys using either the addition of a sharp or a flat. The way it is; a black key adds a sharp to the name of the white key on its left and a flat to the name of the white key on its right. For example, the black key between C and D will bear **C#** or **Db**. So

you see that every black key has two names. This is known as enharmonic equivalence. Thus, C# and Db are enharmonically equivalent. Study the table below for naming of other black keys:

| White keys | Black keys between them |
|------------|-------------------------|
| C and D | C# or Db |
| D and E | D# or Eb |
| F and G | F# or Gb |
| G and A | G# or Ab |
| A and B | A# or Bb |



Summary

Keyboard is musical instrument that produces sound through a set of keys. There are black and white keys on a keyboard. While the white keys are named using the first seven letters of the English alphabets, the black keys derive their names from the white keys.

Review Questions

1. Describe a keyboard
2. Explain the arrangement and naming of white keys.
3. Name the black keys on a keyboard appropriately.
4. The keys of a keyboard possess _____ and _____ colours.
5. The seven alphabets used in naming white keys are _____
6. A standard keyboard has _____ keys.