

Review of major scales, resolutions and SOLFEG

2. Major scale active/resting and resolution concepts

2.1. When using the SOLFEG system, each major scale degree implies an active or resting quality. Here again for your reference are the solfeg syllables applied to a C major scale:-



These 'active or resting' attributes can be summarized as follows:-

- DO** - Always the most resting or 'resolved' tone within the major scale.
- RE** - This is an active tone which would like to resolve down to **DO** (or up to **MI**). Technically we would call **RE** an 'active whole-step' as it is a whole-step away from adjacent resting tones (**DO** and **MI**).
- MI** - **MI**, like **DO**, is also a resting or 'resolved' tone within the major scale.
- FA** - This is an active tone which would like to resolve down to **MI**. Technically we would call **FA** an 'active half-step' as it is a half step away from the resting tone **MI**.
- SO** - **SO**, like **DO** and **MI**, is a resting or 'resolved' tone within the major scale.
- LA** - This is an active tone which would like to resolve down to **SO** (or up to **DO** via **TI**). Technically we would call **LA** an 'active whole-step' as it is a whole-step away from the resting tone **SO**.
- TI** - This is an active tone which would like to resolve up to **DO**. Technically we would call **TI** an 'active half-step' as it is a half-step away from the resting tone **DO**.

2.2. We will also see that the most common (naturally-occurring) resolutions between active and resting scale degrees are **RE to DO**, **FA to MI**, **LA to SO**, and **TI to DO**. In the keys of C, G, and F, these are notated as follows:-