

# “Ordinary” Temperament Strategy: Overview

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**Reference  
pitch**

*Ideally, C.  
Second choice, F.  
Third choice, A.*

Figure out all the notes you will need.  
Naturals, sharps, and flats are all  
different notes.

Figure out what other musicians will be  
participating in the performance, and  
what keys the music will be in.

Set up the naturals first, with some regular amount  
of tempering, working by 5ths.  
C-G-D-A-E-B; and C-F.  
This establishes all the notes of the C major scale.

*F-C-G-D-A-E-B:  
Fa-Do-Sol-Re-La-Mi-Ti.*

Make the flats by working from F with that same regular size:  
F-Bb-Eb.  
Make the sharps by working from B with that same regular size:  
B-F#-C#-G#.

**Adjust-  
ments**

*G# and Eb do not  
connect to one another.  
They belong to different  
scales.*

*We now have the following major scales (but  
no accidentals!):  
Bb major, F major, C major, G major, D major,  
and A major.  
We also have G minor, D minor, and A minor.  
If our music never modulates from these keys,  
we might be finished.*



