



Scales on the sun's road

How to use Ecliptic

Ecliptic charts scales and modes on a keyboard, for anyone who sees scales on a MIDI controller. Pick the controller under your hands, shift octaves to match it, and the scale is drawn across the keys with the root on the sun. The same figure repeats every octave. Plug in a controller and the keys light as you play; collect the notes you play and Ecliptic names the scale.

Quick start — the page in six steps

The page reads top to bottom in this order, and the strip under the header links to each step.

1 Keyboard & range
Choose the controller size (25 to 88 keys, or custom octaves) and use Octave -/+ to match the hardware.

2 Key of the song
Tell Ecliptic the key and it lists the scales that fit, closest to home first, each with its character.

3 Scale & chart
Pick a root and a scale. Click notes to color them, set a key range, read the keys, play them.

4 Harmony
The other modes of the scale, the scales one note away, and the chord built on every degree.

5 Scale finder (Sightings)
Tap the notes you are playing, or collect them from MIDI in, and see every scale that holds them.

6 Riff Map
Generate a playable note path on a compact keyboard. Lock steps you like and regenerate the rest.

The chart

The keyboard is drawn to the range you chose. Every key carries its note name: C4 on the C's, plain names on the other white keys, both spellings (C#/Db) on the black keys. Scale notes get a marker above the name; the root's marker carries a rayed sun.

What you see on the keys

Sun marker	The root of the scale.
Saffron marker	A scale note, labelled with its interval, its name, or both (Note labels).
Colored marker	A note you clicked in Scale notes; every copy of it takes the same color.
Dashed line	The trace line joining the scale across the keys.
Dimmed keys	Keys outside the key range you set.
Gold key / ember key	A key held on your MIDI controller: gold if the note is in the scale, ember if it is not.

Controls around the chart

Keyboard	25, 37, 49, 61, 76 or 88 keys (88 is A0–C8), or Custom octaves: 1–8 octaves from any starting C.
Octave – / +	Moves the whole keyboard an octave, the way the controller's octave buttons do, so the screen matches your hands.
Scale notes · click to color	Click a note to color it everywhere; click again to clear. Show only colored notes hides the rest of the scale.
Trace lines	Draws or hides the line joining the scale notes.
Key range	Show scale notes only between two keys, for one hand's reach; Whole keyboard resets it.
Sound / Play ▲ ▼	With sound on, click any key to hear it. Play ▲ / ▼ plays the scale one octave from its lowest root in range.

MIDI in and the wheel

Connect	Asks the browser for MIDI access and lists your inputs. Works in Chrome, Edge and Opera on desktop and Android; iPhone Safari has no Web MIDI.
Playing	Keys light as you play: in-scale notes gold, out-of-scale notes ember. The wheel rings the held signs in white.
Collect notes / Which scale is this?	Collect remembers every note you play from then on; Which scale is this? sends them to Sightings, which lists every scale that holds them.
The wheel	Twelve signs for twelve pitch classes. The sun sits on the root; the scale is lit; colored notes keep their colors; two or more colored notes draw as a figure. Chromatic order shows the octave; Fifths order gathers the scale into one arc with its neighbouring keys beside it. Click a lit sign to color that note.
Sky	The sky follows your clock (dawn, day, dusk, night). Pin a time of day from the Control Center's Sky panel, or let it move.

Harmony

Other modes of this scale	Parallel · same root keeps the root and changes the mode; Relative · same notes keeps the notes and changes the root.
Scales one note away	Same root, one note changed, showing which interval moves.
Chord tones	Pick a degree, then Triad, 7th chord or Root + 5th: the chord lights up on the keys and is named.
Every chord in this scale	One button per degree with its name and Roman numeral; Show 7ths switches to seventh chords.

Playing in, Sightings and the Riff Map

Playing in · scale picker	Pick the song's key. Scales that fit are grouped: Home, Works over the key, Spice; each with its character and the notes it adds. Click to chart.
Character	Every scale has a mood and a one-line description; hover any scale in the Scale menu or the picker.
Sightings · scale finder	Tap notes, send your colored notes, or collect from MIDI; every scale that holds them is listed, exact matches first.
Riff Map	Generate writes a note path inside a hand span of an octave and a fifth, from the scale, the key range and your colored notes. Styles: Run, Motif, Pedal, Zigzag, Chug. Lock steps, regenerate the rest, Same № rebuilds a riff from its number, Play ► steps through it, Copy steps copies the list.

Snapshots, PDF, and the bars

Snapshots	Six saved charts: keyboard, range, scale, colors and riff. Click a name to bring one back;  saves what is on screen; double-click renames; × empties.
Save as PDF	A one-page color chart of the keyboard as shown, named after the scale and keyboard.
The Helm (top bar)	Appears as you scroll: the charted scale, root and scale menus, the note chips, labels, Show only colored notes, Sound, Save as PDF, Snapshots.
Control Center (right)	The big scale readout, then Scale, Keyboard, Range, Sky, Clear, Top and Chart.
Sessions	Ecliptic remembers your last session in this browser; Start fresh clears it.

Tips and troubleshooting

- Sound needs one click first; turn Sound on, then click a key.
- MIDI not listed? Plug the controller in before pressing Connect, and allow MIDI when the browser asks. Chrome and Edge support it; Safari on iPhone does not.
- Keys don't match the controller? Use Octave – / + until the leftmost key on screen is the leftmost key under your hand.
- The PDF button shows a message if a PDF cannot be built; send that message along and it can be fixed.
- Once hosted on the web, Install / Add to Home Screen puts the app on your desktop or phone with its icon, and it works offline.
- Everything stays on your machine: no account, nothing sent anywhere.