

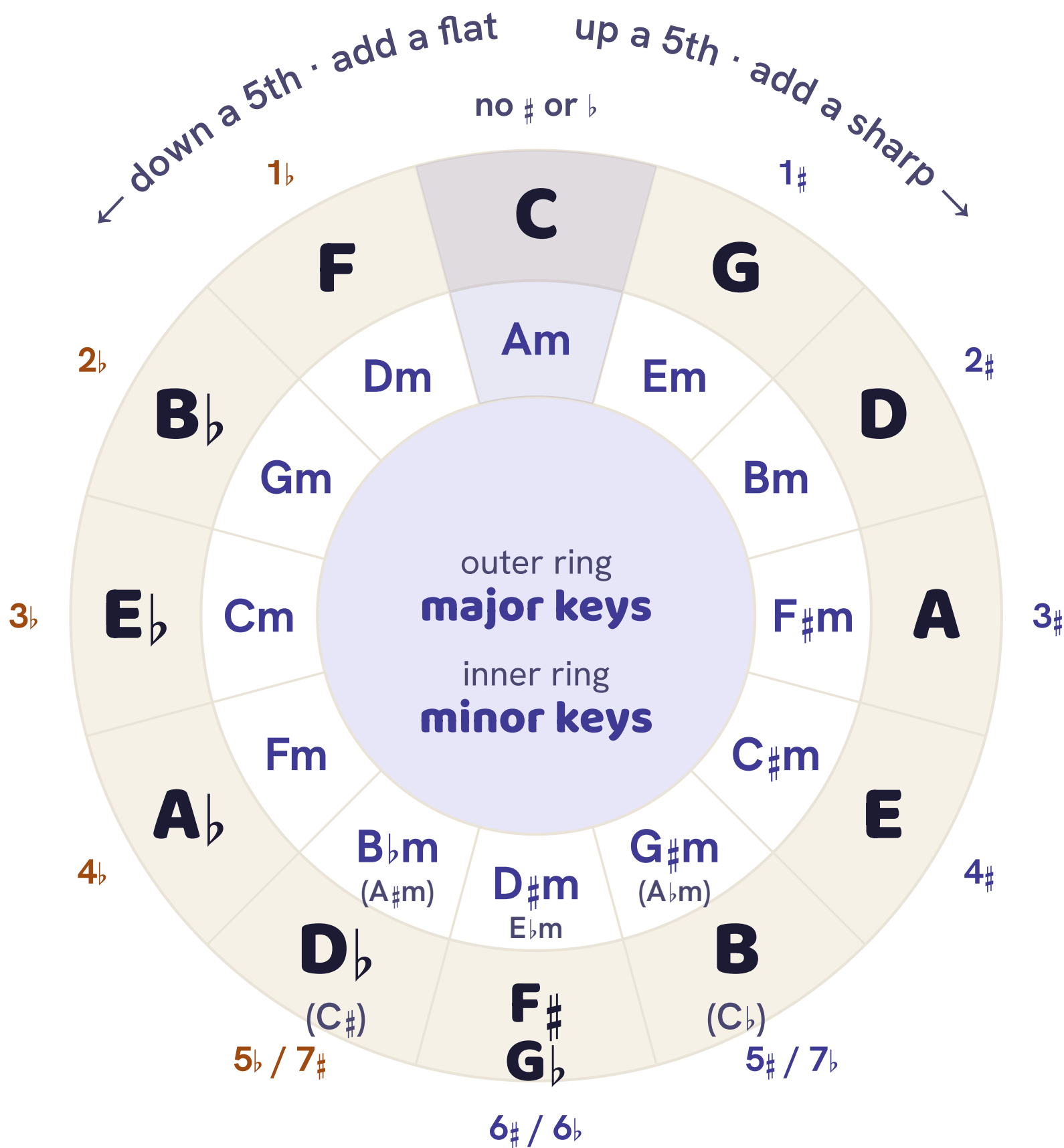
Circle of Fifths Chart.

Every key at a glance: sharps and flats, relative minors, and how the keys connect. Free printable · A1

SCALES & KEYS

Circle of Fifths

Clockwise, each key is a perfect 5th higher and adds one sharp. Counter-clockwise, each is a 5th lower and adds one flat.

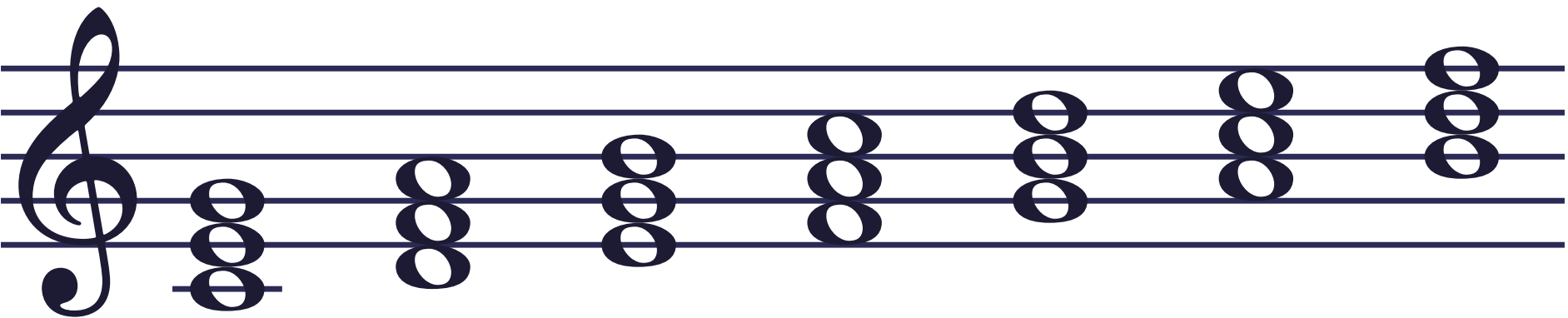


Where a position has two names, the one with fewer sharps or flats is the main label and the other is smaller. At 6 o'clock both have six, so both are the same size.

CHORDS & HARMONY

Chords in a Key

Stack every other note of the scale on each degree to get the seven chords that belong to the key. Major keys always follow the same pattern: major, minor, minor, major, major, minor, diminished.



C MAJOR · TRIADS

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°

C MAJOR · SEVENTH CHORDS

Cmaj7	Dm7	Em7	Fmaj7	G7	Am7	Bø7
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PRACTICE TIP

Practise slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.



SCALES & KEYS

How to Use the Circle

Four things the circle tells you, shown here for C major.

Find a key's sharps or flats **G: 1 sharp, F#**
Each step clockwise adds one sharp; each step counter-clockwise adds one flat.

Find the relative minor **C ↔ Am**
The minor key just inside shares the same key signature.

Find chords that go together
A key and its two neighbours are I, IV and V; the minor keys inside them are vi, ii and iii.

Move to a close key **C → F or G**
A step either way changes just one sharp or flat, so the change sounds smooth.

SCALES & KEYS

Key Signatures

Order of sharps
F# C# G# D# A# E# B#
Father Charles Goes Down And Ends Battle

Order of flats
Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb Fb
Battle Ends And Down Goes Charles' Father

Name the key
Sharp keys: the key is a semitone above the last sharp.
Flat keys: the key is the second-to-last flat. (F major has one flat, Bb.)

Sharp keys	Flat keys
C Am 0 —	F Dm 1 Bb
G Em 1 F#	Bb Gm 2 Bb Eb
D Bm 2 F# C#	Eb Cm 3 Bb Eb Ab
A F#m 3 F# C# G#	Ab Fm 4 Bb Eb Ab Db
E C#m 4 F# C# G# D#	Db Bbm 5 Bb Eb Ab Db Gb
B G#m 5 F# C# G# D# A#	Gb Ebm 6 Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb
F# D#m 6 F# C# G# D# A# E#	Cb Abm 7 Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb Fb
C# A#m 7 F# C# G# D# A# E# B#	

“Music is the universal language of mankind.”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Outre-Mer, 1835

