Circle of Fifths Chart.

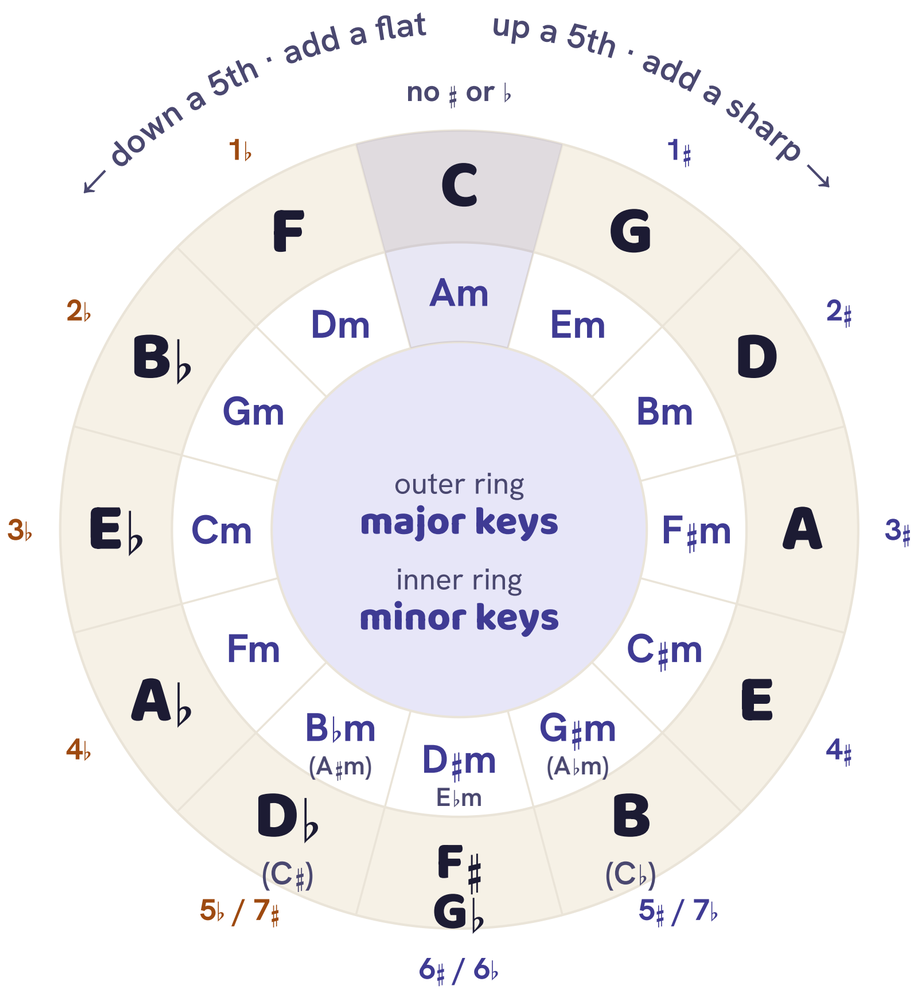
Every key at a glance: sharps and flats, relative minors, and how the keys connect.

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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.

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
Each step clockwise adds one sharp; each step counter-clockwise adds one flat.
G: 1 sharp, F♯

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

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.
IV F · I C · V G
ii Dm · vi Am · iii Em

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

SCALES & KEYS

Key Signatures

Order of sharps

F♯ C♯ G♯ D♯ A♯ E♯ B♯
Father **C**harles **G**oes **D**own **A**nd **E**nds **B**attle

Order of flats

B♭ E♭ A♭ D♭ G♭ C♭ F♭
Battle **E**nds **A**nd **D**own **G**oes **C**harles' **F**ather

Name the key

Sharp keys: the key is a half step above the last sharp.
Flat keys: the key is the second-to-last flat. (F major has one flat, B♭.)

Sharp keys

C	Am	0	—
G	Em	1	F♯
D	Bm	2	F♯ C♯
A	F♯m	3	F♯ C♯ G♯
E	C♯m	4	F♯ C♯ G♯ D♯
B	G♯m	5	F♯ C♯ G♯ D♯ A♯
F♯	D♯m	6	F♯ C♯ G♯ D♯ A♯ E♯
C♯	A♯m	7	F♯ C♯ G♯ D♯ A♯ E♯ B♯

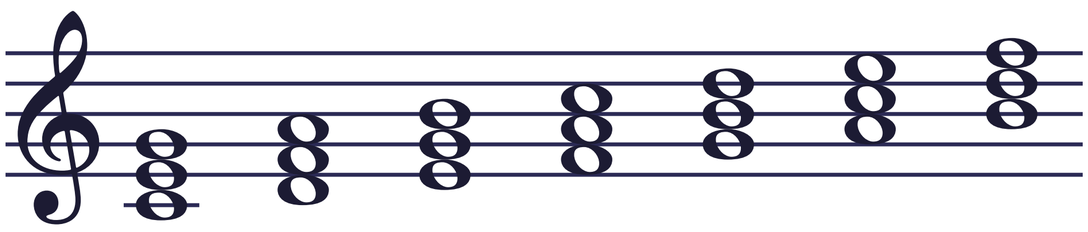
Flat keys

F	Dm	1	B♭
B♭	Gm	2	B♭ E♭
E♭	Cm	3	B♭ E♭ A♭
A♭	Fm	4	B♭ E♭ A♭ D♭
D♭	B♭m	5	B♭ E♭ A♭ D♭ G♭
G♭	E♭m	6	B♭ E♭ A♭ D♭ G♭ C♭
C♭	A♭m	7	B♭ E♭ A♭ D♭ G♭ C♭ F♭

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

PRACTICE TIP

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

"Music is the universal language of mankind."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Outre-Mer, 1835

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