

Circle of Fifths Chart.

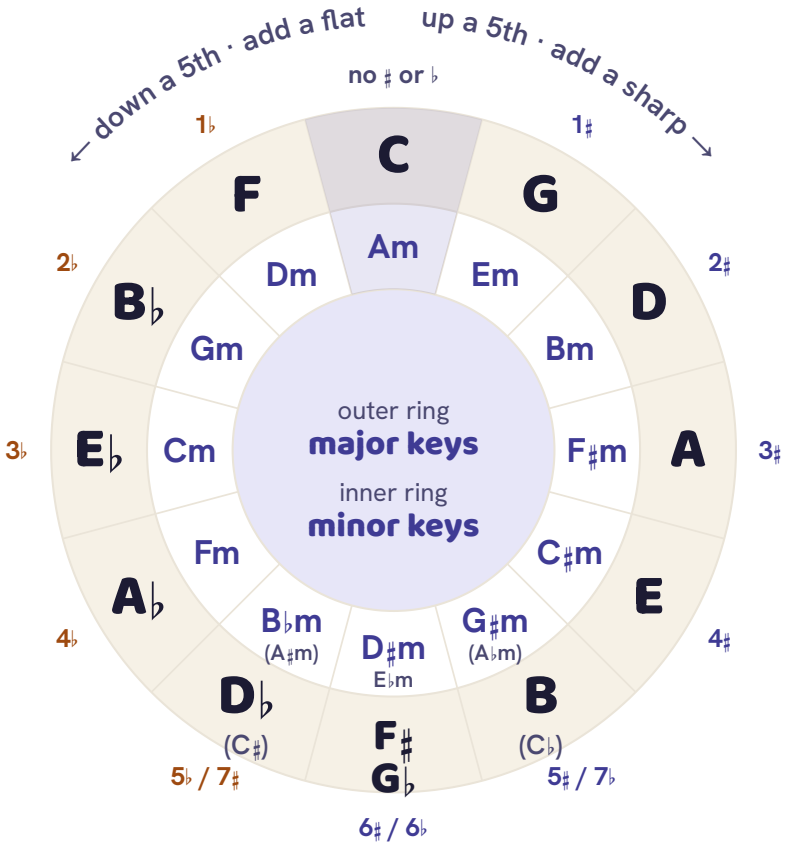
Every key at a glance: sharps and flats, relative minors, and how the keys connect.

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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

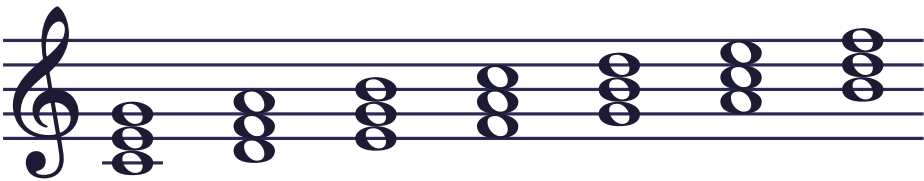
A step either way changes just one sharp or flat, so the change sounds smooth.

C → F or G

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

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	Bb
Bb	Gm	2	Bb Eb
Eb	Cm	3	Bb Eb Ab
Ab	Fm	4	Bb Eb Ab Db
Db	Bbm	5	Bb Eb Ab Db Gb
Gb	Ebm	6	Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb
Cb	Abm	7	Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb Fb

"Music is the universal language of mankind."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Outre-Mer, 1835

