Key Signatures

How many sharps or flats each key has, and the notes in its scale.

Every major key shares its key signature with its relative minor (6th note of the scale).

SHARP KEYS each key is a 5th above the one before

Number of sharps	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Major key	**C**	**G**	**D**	**A**	**E**	**B**	**F♯**
Relative minor	Am	Em	Bm	F♯m	C♯m	G♯m	D♯m
New sharp	–	**F♯**	**C♯**	**G♯**	**D♯**	**A♯**	**E♯**

Order of sharps: **F C G D A E B**

The last sharp is one half step below the key name: F♯ → G, C♯ → D.

FLAT KEYS each key is a 4th above the one before

Number of flats	1	2	3	4	5	6
Major key	**F**	**B♭**	**E♭**	**A♭**	**D♭**	**G♭**
Relative minor	Dm	Gm	Cm	Fm	B♭m	E♭m
New flat	**B♭**	**E♭**	**A♭**	**D♭**	**G♭**	**C♭**

Order of flats: **B E A D G C F**

The order of sharps backwards. The second-to-last flat is the key name: B♭ E♭ → E♭.

THE NOTES IN EACH MAJOR KEY Sharps and flats in bold.

Sharp keys

0	**C**	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
1	**G**	G	A	B	C	D	E	**F♯**
2	**D**	D	E	**F♯**	G	A	B	**C♯**
3	**A**	A	B	**C♯**	D	E	**F♯**	**G♯**
4	**E**	E	**F♯**	**G♯**	A	B	**C♯**	**D♯**
5	**B**	B	**C♯**	**D♯**	E	**F♯**	**G♯**	**A♯**
6	**F♯**	**F♯**	**G♯**	**A♯**	B	**C♯**	**D♯**	**E♯**

Flat keys

1	**F**	F	G	A	**B♭**	C	D	E
2	**B♭**	**B♭**	C	D	**E♭**	F	G	A
3	**E♭**	**E♭**	F	G	**A♭**	**B♭**	C	D
4	**A♭**	**A♭**	**B♭**	C	**D♭**	**E♭**	F	G
5	**D♭**	**D♭**	**E♭**	F	**G♭**	**A♭**	**B♭**	C
6	**G♭**	**G♭**	**A♭**	**B♭**	**C♭**	**D♭**	**E♭**	F

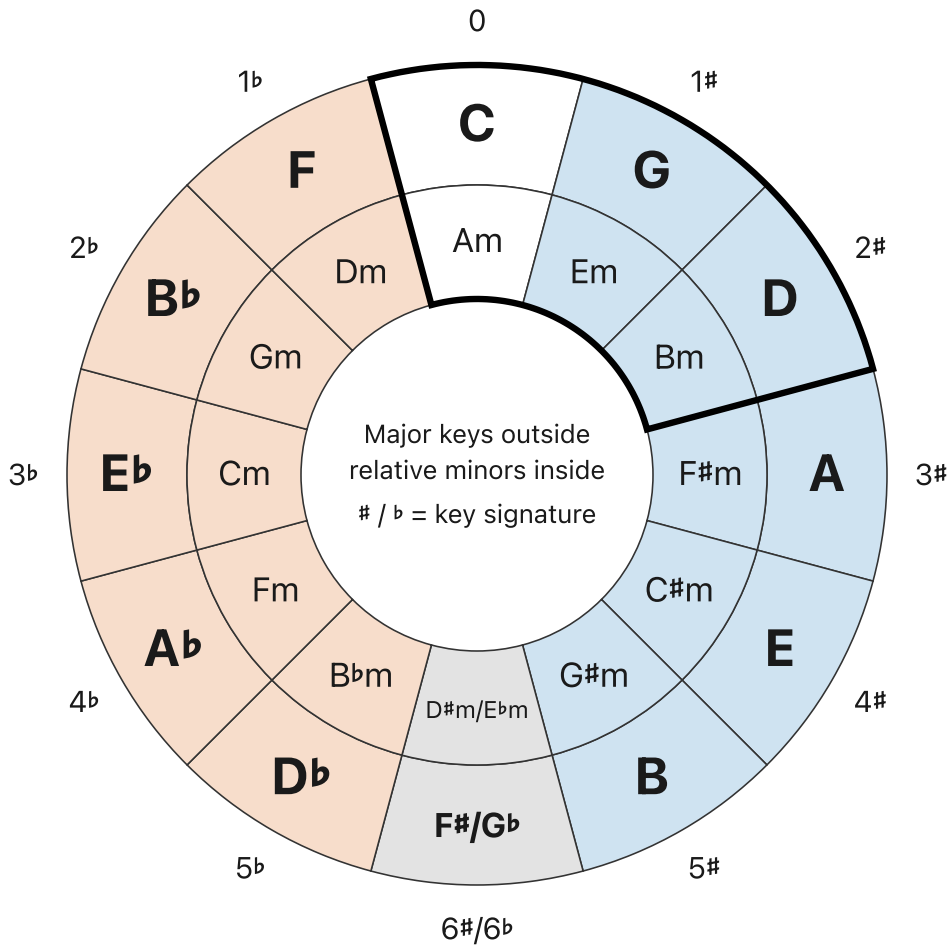
Shaded blue = sharp keys, orange = flat keys.

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Standard Circle of Fifths

Clockwise, each key is a 5th up and adds one sharp.

Counterclockwise, each key is a 4th up and adds one flat.



Relative minor: the minor key under a major key uses the same sharps or flats.

Chords in a key: a key, its two neighbors and the three minors under them. The heavy outline shows G: I G, IV C, V D, ii Am, iii Bm, vi Em. The vii chord, F♯°, is the only one not on the circle.

Chord changes: one step counterclockwise is V to I (D to G), the strongest pull home.

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