

Key Signatures

Major and natural minor scales built on C and A respectively do not contain any altered note. In order to build these scales starting from any other note, it is necessary to alter one or more notes. For instance, in the scale of G major, note F is sharp. If you wished to write a melody in G major, you would need to alter all F notes. Key signatures are used to avoid writing so many accidentals.

Key signatures are placed at the beginning of each staff, between the clef and

Key Signatures

Treble Clef

Major C G D A E B F# C#

Relative minor A E B F# C# F# D# A#

Major F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb

Relative minor D G C F Bb Eb Ab

Bass Clef

Major C G D A E B F# C#

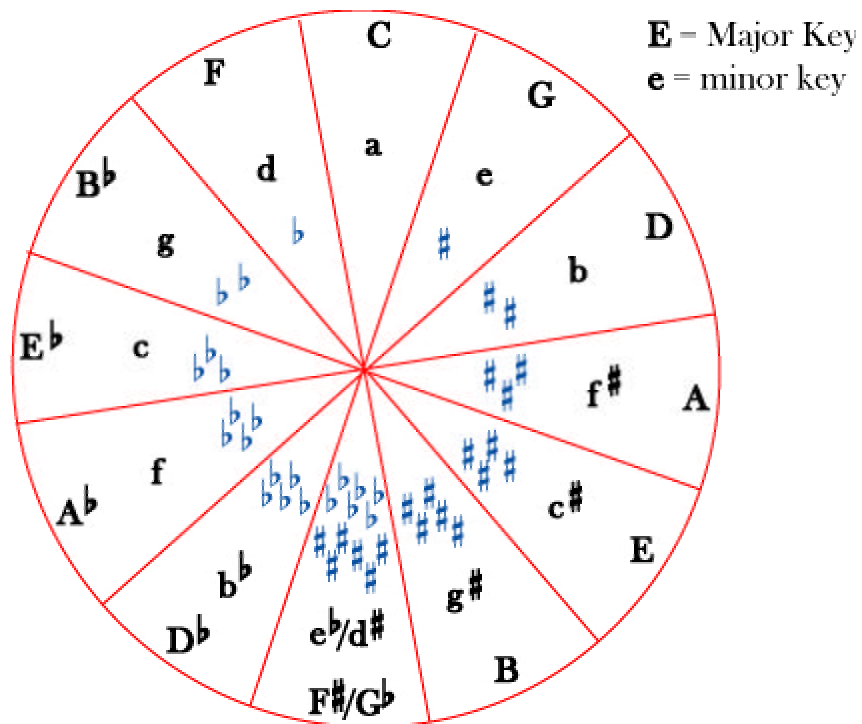
Relative minor A E B F# C# G# D# A#

Major F Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb

Relative minor D G C F Bb Eb Ab

Circle of Fifths

The circle of fifths is a way to arrange keys to show how closely they are related to each other.



The major key for each key signature is shown as a capital letter; the minor key as a small letter. In theory, one could continue around the circle adding flats or sharps (so that B major is also C flat major, with seven flats, E major is also F flat major, with 6 flats and a double flat, and so on), but in practice such key signatures are very rare.