

Key signatures

C/a G/e D/b A/f# E/c# B/g# F#/d# C#/a# Cb/ab Gb/eb Db/bb Ab/f Eb/c Bb/g F/d

The image displays 24 key signatures arranged in four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. Above the first staff, 12 key signatures are listed: C/a, G/e, D/b, A/f#, E/c#, B/g#, F#/d#, C#/a#, Cb/ab, Gb/eb, Db/bb, Ab/f, Eb/c, Bb/g, F/d. Arrows point from each key signature to its corresponding musical notation on the staves.

The order of the flats and sharps

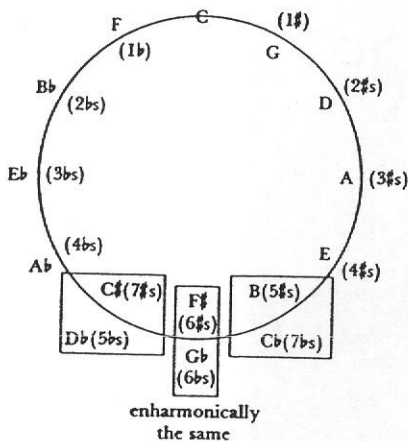
B E A D G C F
 flats → → →
 ← ← ← sharps

Key relationships

Relative major and minor: they share the **same key signature**. The tonics are a m3 apart--that of the minor key is a m3 lower than the major (e.g. G Major and e minor, E^b Major and c minor). The relative major and natural minor scales have the same pitch content (example: the C Major scale is C D E F G A B C; the a natural minor scale is A B C D E F G A).

Parallel major and minor: they share the **same tonic note** (e.g. D Major and d minor; F[#] Major and f[#] minor). Their key signatures are three keys removed from one another; that of the minor has three more flats or three fewer sharps than that of the Major (examples: E Major key sig is 4 sharps while e minor key sig is one sharp; F Major key sig is one flat while f minor key sig is 4 flats).

Enharmonic keys: those which look radically different but sound **identical** (examples: F[#] Major and G^b major; d[#] minor and e^b minor).



Sharps

Two musical staves showing sharp key signatures. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves show the scale for C major (no sharps or flats) and G major (two sharps). The axis slants downward to the right.

Two musical staves showing sharp key signatures. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves show the scale for D major (two sharps) and A major (three sharps). The axis slants downward to the right.

(Axis slants downward to right for all clefs except tenor.)

Flats

Two musical staves showing flat key signatures. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves show the scale for F major (one flat) and C major (no sharps or flats). The axis slants upward to the right.

Two musical staves showing flat key signatures. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves show the scale for Bb major (two flats) and Eb major (three flats). The axis slants upward to the right.

(Axis slants upward to right for all clefs.)