

KEY SIGNATURES

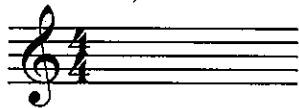
Name _____

Now that you've learned about scale patterns, it is time to discover how accidentals play a part in the formation of key signatures. Basically, the appearance of these sharps or flats at the beginning of a piece indicates that those particular notes are to raised (#) or lowered (b) throughout that piece. In printed music, the necessary sharps and flats (one or the other) are found at the start of each line of music, following the clef sign, making up the key signature.



KEY OF C MAJOR

The key of C major has no sharps or flats and looks like this:



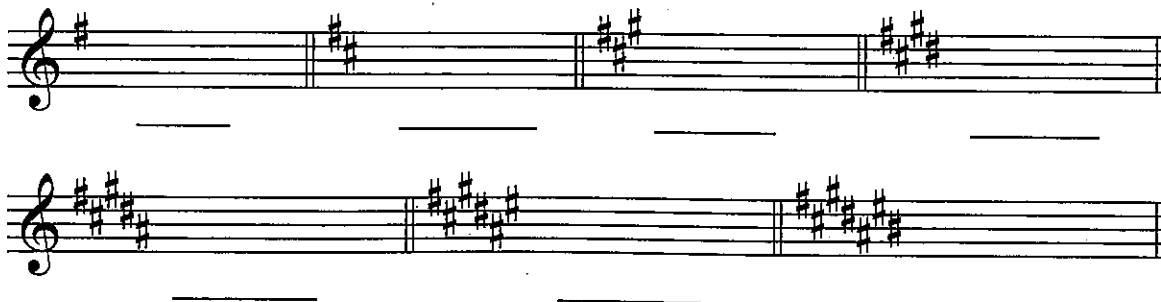
SHARPS

There are seven key signatures that use sharps:

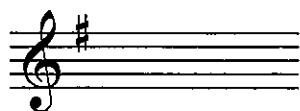
Key of G – one sharp (F#)
 Key of D – two sharps (F# and C#)
 Key of A – three sharps (F#, C# and G#)
 Key of E – four sharps (F#, C#, G# and D#)
 Key of B – five sharps (F#, C#, G#, D# and A#)
 Key of F# – six sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#, A# and E#)
 Key of C# – seven sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E# and B#)

The order of sharps from left to right in a key signature is always F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E# and B#, a good thing to know. The sharp sign is placed on the line or space of the note it alters. For example, the F# is placed on the first space or fifth line.

Using the chart above, label the key signatures below:



You can always tell what key you are in using sharps, by going up a half step from the last sharp in the signature.



When you go a half step up from F#, you know you are in the key of G.

FLATS

There are seven key signatures that use flats:

Key of F – one flat (B \flat)
 Key of B \flat – two flats (B \flat and E \flat)
 Key of E \flat – three flats (B \flat , E \flat and A \flat)
 Key of A \flat – four flats (B \flat , E \flat , A \flat and D \flat)
 Key of D \flat – five flats (B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat and G \flat)
 Key of G \flat – six flats (B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat , G \flat and C \flat)
 Key of C \flat – seven flats (B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat , G \flat , C \flat and F \flat)

The order of flats from left to right in a key signature is always B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat , G \flat , C \flat and F \flat , a good thing to remember. The flat sign is placed on the line or space of the note it alters. For example, the B \flat is placed on the third line.

Using the chart above, label the key signatures below:

To find which key you are in using flats, go backwards one flat in the signature from the last flat added.



With three flats (B \flat , E \flat and A \flat) go back one flat from the last flat (A \flat) to know that you are in the key of E \flat . (You will simply need to memorize the key of F, which only has one flat.)

BONUS QUESTIONS:

1. Is a natural sign (\natural) ever used in key signatures? _____ What is its purpose?

2. What other name is given the note B#? _____ C \flat ? _____ E#? _____

THINK

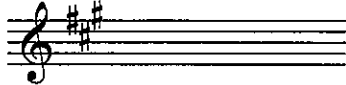
You learned the major and minor scales in the lesson on scales. Each major key shares a key signature with a minor key. That minor key is said to be the **relative minor** (performed as a natural minor scale) of the major key. For example, the key of C has no sharps and flats; the key of A minor also has no sharps and flats. A minor is the relative minor of C major. You can always find the relative minor by going a minor third down from the tonic or key tone of the major scale.

Fill in the blanks below to name the relative minor of the major key. Write the name of the minor keys in lower case. The first one is done for you.

1. Key of C major has a relative minor of a (minor third down from C)
2. Key of F major has a relative minor of _____.
3. Key of D major has a relative minor of _____.
4. Key of A major has a relative minor of _____.

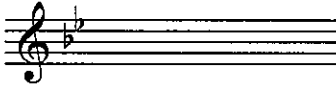
WHO HAS THE KEYS?

Under the following examples, write the name of the major key signature and its relative minor.

a. 

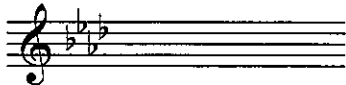
_____ | _____

Major minor

b. 

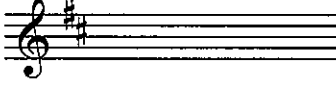
_____ | _____

Major minor

c. 

_____ | _____

Major minor

d. 

_____ | _____

Major minor

BONUS QUESTIONS:

1. How many flats are in the key of Eb? _____ Name those flats _____
2. How many sharps are in the key of F#? _____ Name those sharps _____