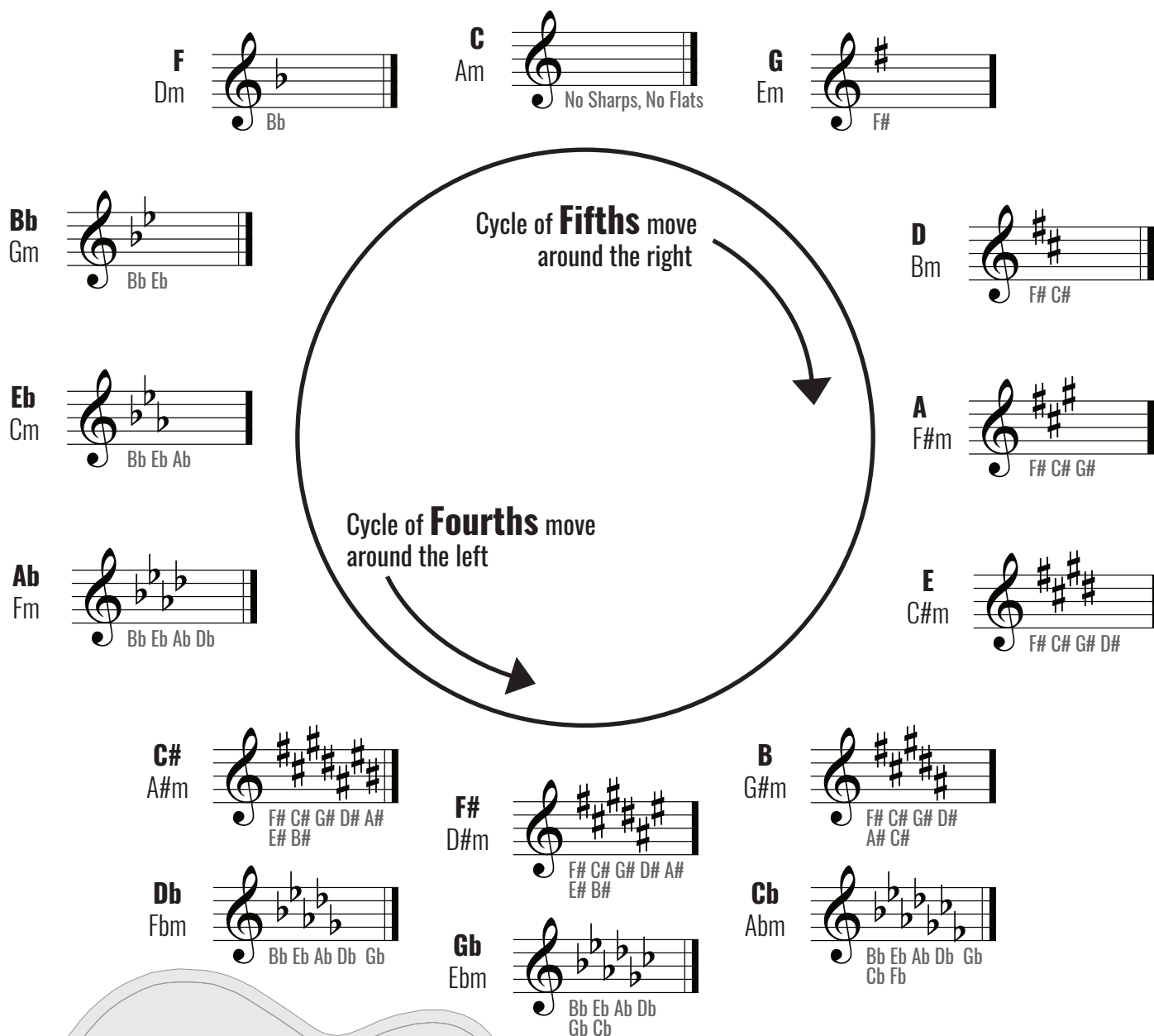


Key Signatures

Major & Relative Minor Key Signatures



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Key Signatures

Major & Relative Minor Key Signatures

Tips & Observations from the Cycle

- A sharp ($\sharp$) or flat ($\flat$) is called an accidental.
- Flats and Sharps are not mixed in key signatures.
- Each successive key signature includes the previous key signature's accidentals.

C	G	D	A	E	B	F $\sharp$	C $\sharp$
C	F	B $\flat$	E $\flat$	A $\flat$	D $\flat$	G $\flat$	C $\flat$

- The last sharp in a key signature is the letter right before the name of the major key.

Example: The last sharp in G major is **F**.

A B C D E **F** G A

Example: The last sharp in E major is **D**.

A B C **D** E F G A B ...

- The order of Sharps ($\sharp$) move in *fifths* (clockwise).
- The order of Flats ($\flat$) in move in *fourths* (counter-clockwise).
- The *primary chords*, the **I**, **IV**, and **V** chords of a major key are the chords the left and right of the key signature. The **IV** chord is to the left along the circle and the **V** chord is to the right along the circle.
- Memorize the cycle of fourths at first. The word **BEAD** is in there twice, first with flats (B $\flat$ E $\flat$ A $\flat$ D $\flat$) then with no flats or sharps (B E A D). Makes it a little easier to memorize. Then fifths are the other direction, with BEAD in there backwards (D A E B).

FOURTHS: C **B $\flat$** **E $\flat$** **A $\flat$** **D $\flat$** G $\flat$ C $\flat$
C $\sharp$ F $\sharp$ **B** **E** **A** **D** G C

FIFTHS: C G **D** **A** **E** **B** F $\sharp$ C $\sharp$
C $\flat$ G $\flat$ **D $\flat$** **A $\flat$** **E $\flat$** **B $\flat$** F C

- Common Major Keys for Rock, Pop, Country, and Folk keys are are: **C**, **G**, **D**, **A**, and **E**.
- Common Major Keys for Jazz keys are: **C**, **F**, **B $\flat$** , **E $\flat$** , **A $\flat$** , **D $\flat$** , and **G**. There is a some overlap with **F** and **B $\flat$** as common keys for ukulele.

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