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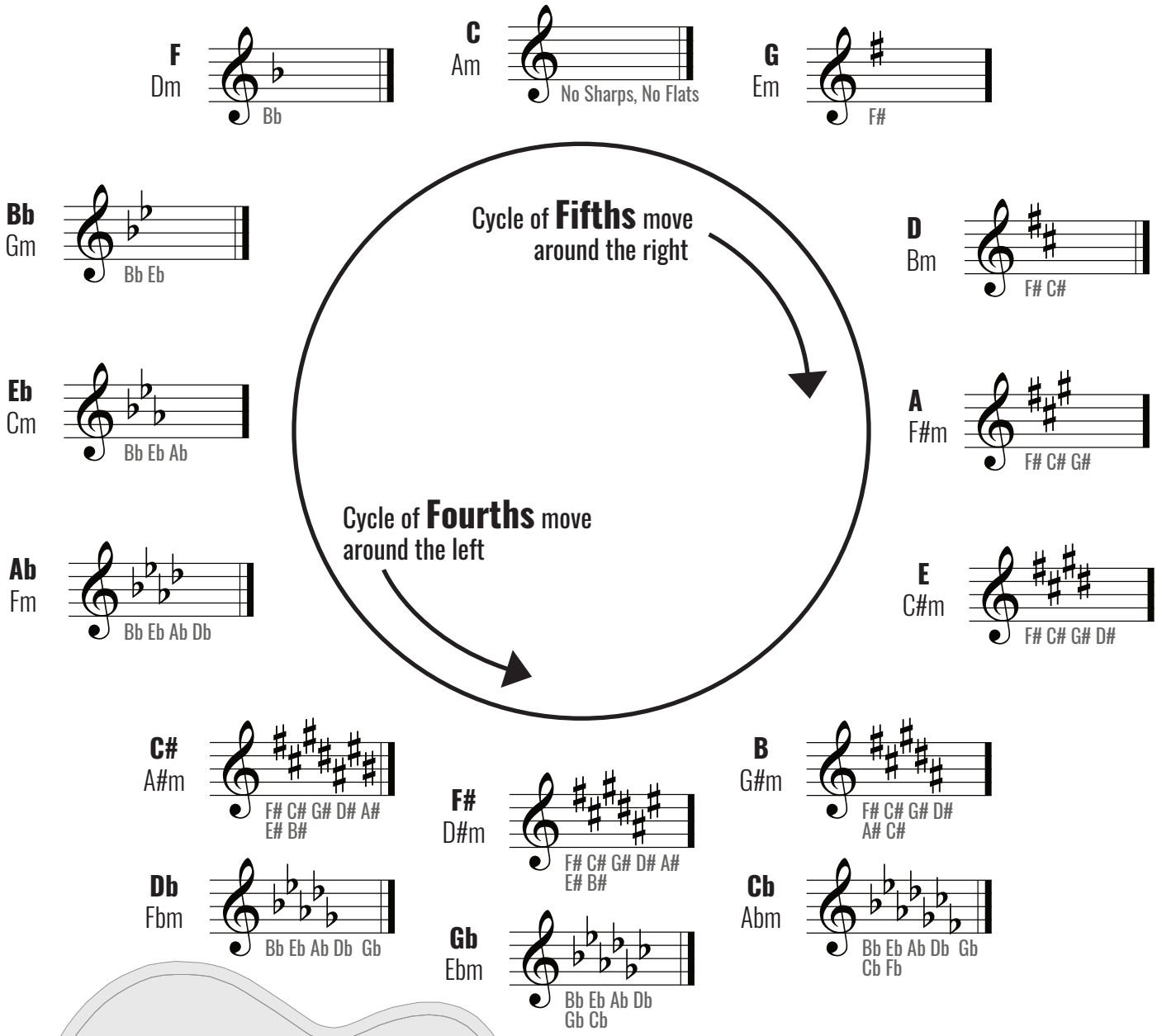
UkuleleLessons
by Curt Sheller

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 (♯) or 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#	C#
C	F	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb

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

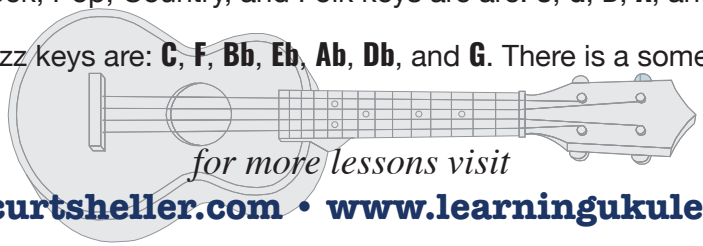
  Example: The last sharp in G major is **F**.

  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 (♯) move in *fifths (clockwise)*.
- The order of Flats (♭) 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 (Bb Eb Ab Db) 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	**Bb**	**Eb**	**Ab**	**Db**	Gb	Cb					
					C#	F#	**B**	**E**	**A**	**D**	G	C
FIFTHS:	C	G	**D**	**A**	**E**	**B**	F#	C#				
						Cb	Gb	**Db**	**Ab**	**Eb**	**Bb**	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**, **Bb**, **Eb**, **Ab**, **Db**, and **G**. There is a some overlap with **F** and **Bb** as common keys for ukulele.