

## **The Circle Of Fifths/Circle Of Fourths**

The circle of fifths and the circle of fourths is a different way to look at major scales, and the way scales relate to each other.

The circle of fifths is formed by starting each new scale on the fifth note of the previous scale. Traditionally these are written on the right side of the circle, and go clockwise.

For example, from C to \_\_ to \_\_

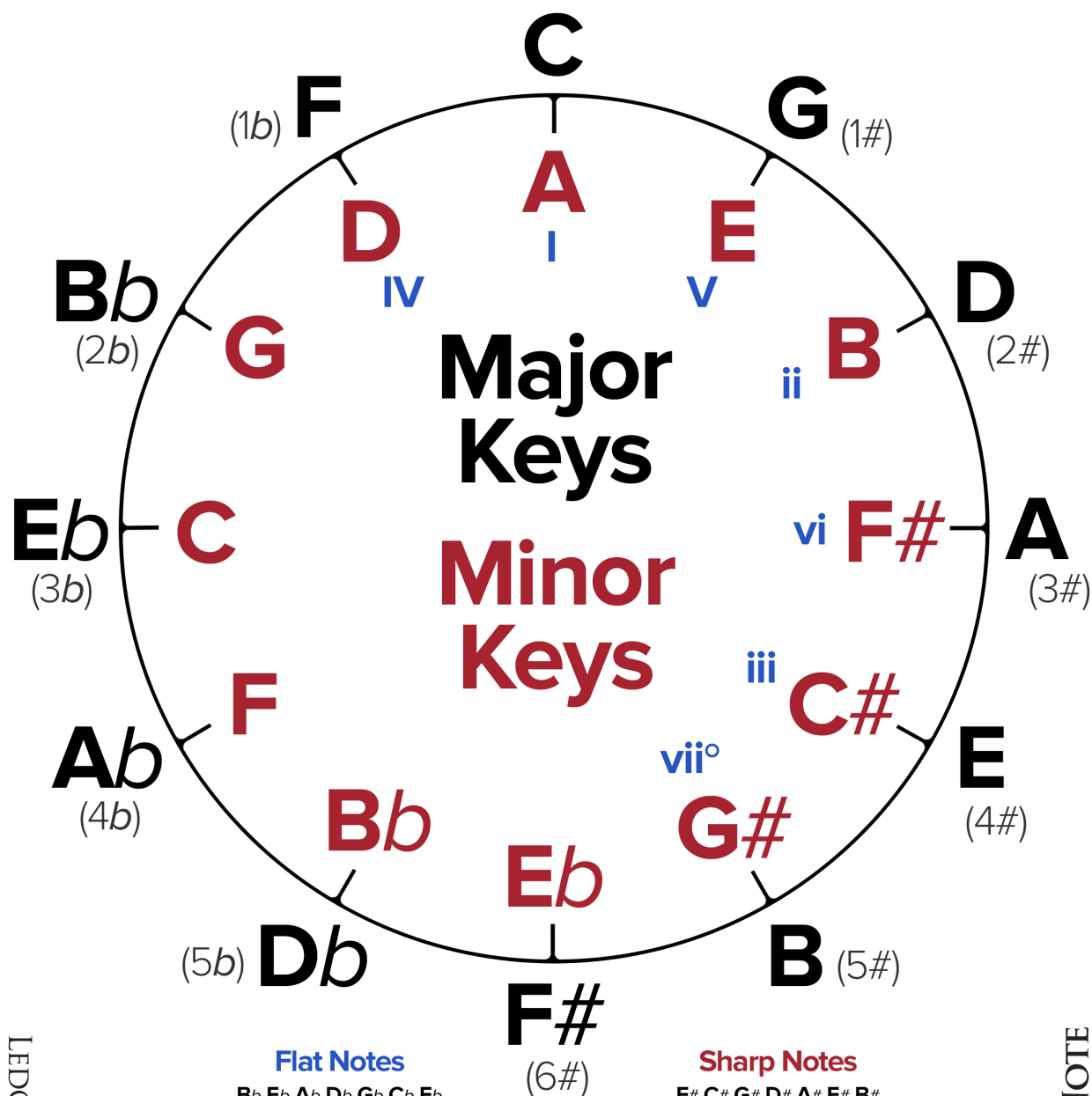
Each new scale in the circle of fifths adds a \_\_\_\_\_ or takes away a \_\_\_\_\_.

The circle of fourths is formed by starting each new scale on the fourth note of the previous scale. Traditionally these are written on the left side of the circle, and go counterclockwise.

For example, from C to \_\_ to \_\_

Each new scale in the circle of fourths adds a \_\_\_\_\_ or takes away a \_\_\_\_\_.

# The Circle of Fifths



**Flat Notes**

	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb	Fb	
<b>F</b>	•							<b>D</b>
<b>Bb</b>	•	•						<b>G</b>
<b>Eb</b>	•	•	•					<b>C</b>
<b>Ab</b>	•	•	•	•				<b>F</b>
<b>Db</b>	•	•	•	•	•			<b>Bb</b>
<b>Gb</b>	•	•	•	•	•	•		<b>Eb</b>
<b>Cb</b>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	<b>Ab</b>

**Major Keys** **Minor Keys**

**Sharp Notes**

	F#	C#	G#	D#	A#	E#	B#	
<b>G</b>	•							<b>E</b>
<b>D</b>	•	•						<b>B</b>
<b>A</b>	•	•	•					<b>F#</b>
<b>E</b>	•	•	•	•				<b>C#</b>
<b>B</b>	•	•	•	•	•			<b>G#</b>
<b>F#</b>	•	•	•	•	•	•		<b>D#</b>
<b>C#</b>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	<b>A#</b>

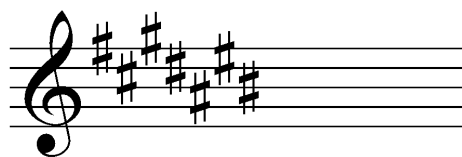
**Major Keys** **Minor Keys**

## Why study this?

The circle of fifths/fourths is important for many reasons:

- *It's a different way of looking at major scales.* It may be easier for you to think of each scale as only changing one note from the previous scale.
- *It teaches relationships between keys.* Most key changes and modulations are built on the circle of fifths/fourths. Knowing these relationships allows you to predict key changes better and to hear them better as you play.
- *It teaches the order of sharps and flats.* Once these orders have been memorized, remembering which sharps or flats go with which key becomes MUCH easier.
- *It aids in composition, and in understanding composition.* These circles form the basis of much of western harmony, and are a large part of what gives music direction and motion. Knowing these relationships will help you in your own writing, and in understanding the structure of pieces you will play.

**Order of sharps (in all three clefs)**



**Order of flats (in all three clefs)**



