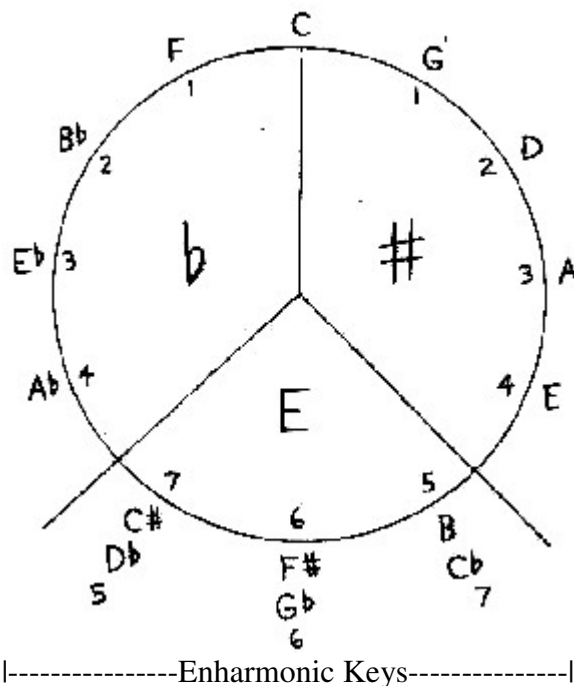


The Twelve Keys of Music

<http://www.abclearnguitar.com/>

Circle of Fifths



- Notice that there are 7 keys that use sharps (#) and 7 keys that use flats (b).
- It would seem that 7 sharp keys + 7 flat keys would = 14 keys.
- And if we were to add the key of C to the mix, the total number of keys should = 15 total keys.

How do we get 12 keys? Answer... The Enharmonic keys are counted as one key because they sound exactly the same and are played exactly the same; the only difference is that they are *notated* differently. So, if you start at C and count each key around the Circle of Fifths you will have a total of 12 keys!

Compare the fingering and notes of these two enharmonic keys when played from the 2nd fret:

Key of B – B C# D# E F# G# A# B

Fingering - 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

<http://www.abclearnguitar.com/B-Major-Scale.html>

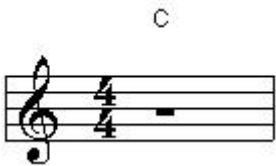
Key of Cb – Cb Db Eb Fb Gb Ab Bb Cb

Fingering - 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

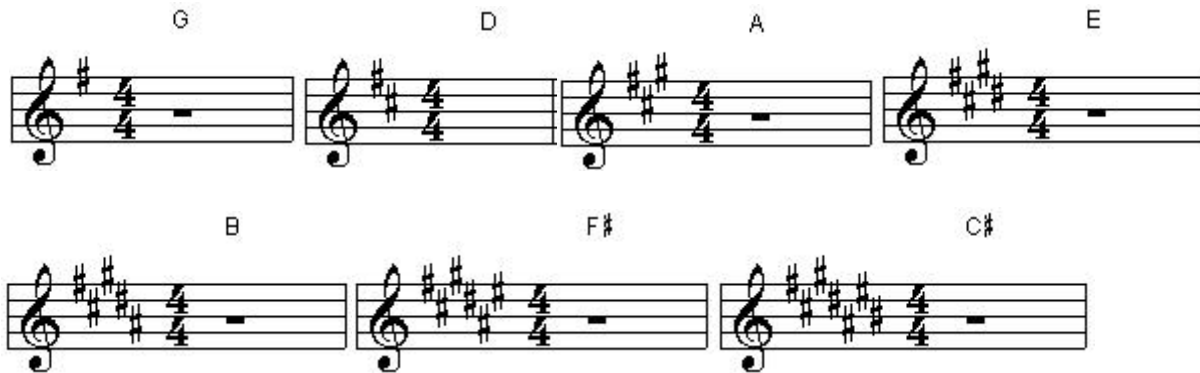
<http://www.abclearnguitar.com/C-Flat-Major-Scale.html>

THE KEY SIGNATURES:

The key of C has 0 sharps/ 0 flats:

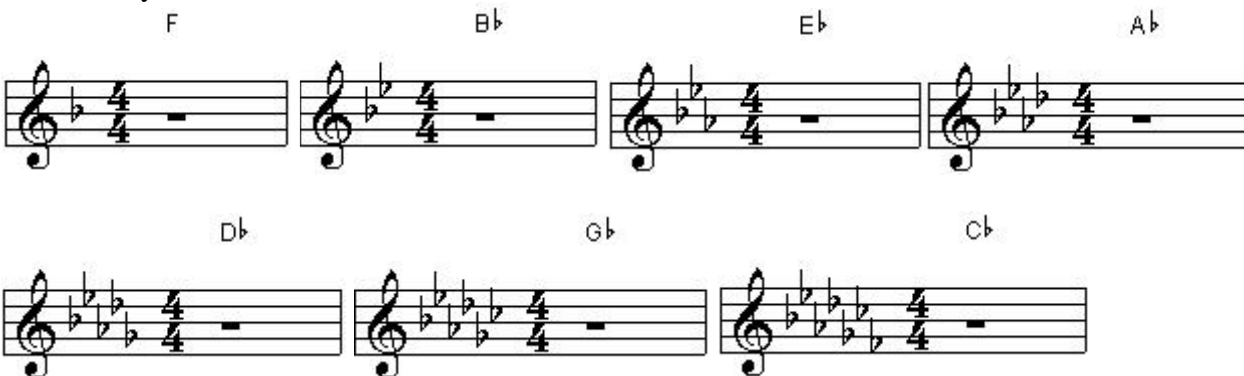


These 7 keys use sharps:



Moving left to right, notice how each new key adds a new sharp. The same thing occurs with the flats keys.

These 7 keys use flats:



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