

Circle of Fifths. "The twelve key signatures arranged in a circle in a clockwise order of ascending fifths for the sharp key signatures and a counter-clockwise order of descending fifths for the flat key signatures. Notice that the two key signatures with seven accidentals: C[#] - 7 sharps and C^b - 7 flats, are not depicted in the circle. They are represented by their enharmonic key signature, i.e. D^b/C[#]. G^b and F[#] are enharmonic and count as one.

Start at C, no flats and no sharps. Count up five steps:

The next key signature is G, 1 sharp: F[#].
 The next key signature is D, 2 sharps: F[#] C[#].
 The next key signature is A, 3 sharps: F[#] C[#] G[#].
 The next key signature is E, 4 sharps: F[#] C[#] G[#] D[#].
 The next key signature is B, 5 sharps: F[#] C[#] G[#] D[#] A[#].
 The next key signature is F[#], 6 sharps: F[#] C[#] G[#] D[#] A[#] E[#].
 The next key signature is C[#], 7 sharps: F[#] C[#] G[#] D[#] A[#] E[#] B[#].

C D E F G.

Then G A B C D.

Then D E F[#] G A.

Then A B C[#] D E.

Then E F[#] G[#] A B.

Then B C[#] D[#] E F[#].

Then F[#] G[#] A[#] B C[#]. (Enharmonic to G^b)

--- (Enharmonic to D^b)

Start at C, no flats and no sharps. Count down five steps:

The next key signature is F, 1 flat: B^b.
 The next key signature is B^b, 2 flats: B^b E^b.
 The next key signature is E^b, 3 flats: B^b E^b A^b.
 The next key signature is A^b, 4 flats: B^b E^b A^b D^b.
 The next key signature is D^b, 5 flats: B^b E^b A^b D^b G^b.
 The next key signature is G^b, 6 flats: B^b E^b A^b D^b G^b C^b.
 The next key signature is C^b, 7 flats: B^b E^b A^b D^b G^b C^b F^b.

C B A G F.

Then F E D C B^b.

Then B^b A G F E^b.

Then E^b D C B^b A^b.

Then A^b G F E^b D^b.

Then D^b C B^b A^b G^b. (Enharmonic to C[#])

Then G^b F E^b D^b C^b. (Enharmonic to F[#])

--- (Enharmonic to B)

C Major

F Major

G Major

Bb Major

D Major

Eb Major

Ab Major

Db Major

Gb Major

F# Major

B Major

A Major

E Major

Annotations:

- Circle 1: ♭ side steps down a 5th (between Ab Major and Eb Major)
- Circle 2: # side steps up a 5th (between F# Major and B Major)

Equation: Gb Major = F# Major

C Major

F Major

G Major

Bb Major

D Major

Eb Major

Ab Major

Db Major

Gb Major

F# Major

B Major

A Major

E Major

Annotations:

- Circle 1: ♭ side steps down a 5th (between Ab Major and Eb Major)
- Circle 2: # side steps up a 5th (between F# Major and B Major)

Equation: Gb Major = F# Major