



Key Signatures

by John Falstrom



Key Signatures

Here's a circle of fifths chart to help you memorize the order of the major and natural minor scales (keys), and the order of the notes that are sharpened or flatted in each major and natural minor scale(key):

Major Scales (Keys)	C	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#
Number of Sharps		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Sharp		F#	C#	G#	D#	A#	E#	B#
Relative Natural Minor Scales (Keys)	A-	E-	B-	F#-	C#-	G#-	D#-	A#-

Major Scales (Keys)	F	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb
Number of Flats	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Flat	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb	Fb
Relative Natural Minor Scales (Keys)	D-	G-	C-	F-	Bb-	Eb-	Ab-

(Notice the reverse order of the (new) sharps and flats.)

Note: The dash (-) to the right of each relative natural minor scale (key) is a symbol for minor.

Summary

Knowing, playing and memorizing the circle of fifths on your bass guitar is an eventual must. Definitely memorize and play a specific root order for all 15 major scales (keys) and all 15 natural minor scales (keys).

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