

The Remaining Major Scales with Key Signatures

Once you are familiar with how to build tetrachords, it is easy to build any major scale. Altogether, there are 15 major scales: 7 sharp keys, 7 flat keys, and the key of C, which has no sharps or flats.

You are already familiar with the scales and key signatures of five of the 15: C, G (F#), D (F#, C#), F (Bb) and Bb (Bb, Eb). Here are the remaining 10.

A Major (3 #s: F#, C#, G#)

Eb Major (3 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab)



E Major (4 #s: F#, C#, G#, D#)

Ab Major (4 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db)



B Major (5 #s: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#)

Db Major (5 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb)



F# Major (6 #s: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#)

Gb Major (6 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb)



C# Major (7 #s: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#, B#)

Cb Major (7 bs: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb, Fb)



The complete order of sharps in the key signature is:

F C G D A E B.

A helpful reminder:

Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bread.

The complete order of flats in the key signature is:

B E A D G C F.

A helpful reminder: **BEAD + G C F.**

There are, however, only 12 unique *sounding* major scales. The following are **ENHARMONIC SCALES**; they sound the same but are written differently:
B major sounds the same as **Cb major**
F# major sounds the same as **Gb major**
C# major sounds the same as **Db major**

Exercises

1 Name the following major key signatures.



a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____ e. _____ f. _____

2 Write the following key signatures.



a. Eb major b. E major c. Ab major d. C# major e. Cb major f. A major