

# Chapter 7: Major Key Signatures

## 7-1: Order of Sharps and Flats



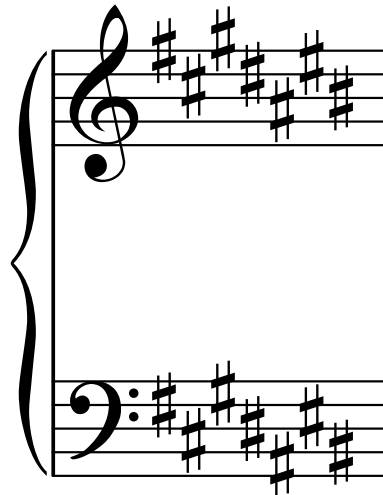
*Press the speaker to hear it.*



**Placement on the Staff:** The sharps and flats in key signatures must be placed on the exact line or space as indicated below:

**Order of Sharps and Flats:** Notice that the order of flats is the reverse order of sharps.

**Order for the Sharps:**  
F C G D A E B



**Memory Helper:** Father Charles Goes Down And Ends Battle

**Order for the Flats:**  
B E A D G C F



**Memory Helper:** Battle Ends And Down Goes Charles Father

# Chapter 7: Major Key Signatures

## 7-2: Key Signatures and Scales



*Press the speaker to hear it.*



**Octave:** The first and last notes of a scale are an octave (eight notes) apart. Notes that are one octave apart share the same letter name.

**Major Scales:** Major scales can be built from every key on the piano keyboard. There are a total of 12 major keys, one for each of the 12 note names on the piano within the octave. Three of the keys have an enharmonic equivalent key: C $\flat$  and B, D $\flat$  and C $\sharp$ , and G $\flat$  and F $\sharp$ .

**Major Key Signatures:** Key signatures show either flats or sharps and let us know what accidentals are needed to create the major scale pattern from the first note.

### Major Scale Names = Major Key Signature Names

#### Flat Scales or Keys

The accidentals are not needed if the key signature is present.



#### Sharp Scales or Keys

The accidentals are not needed if the key signature is present.



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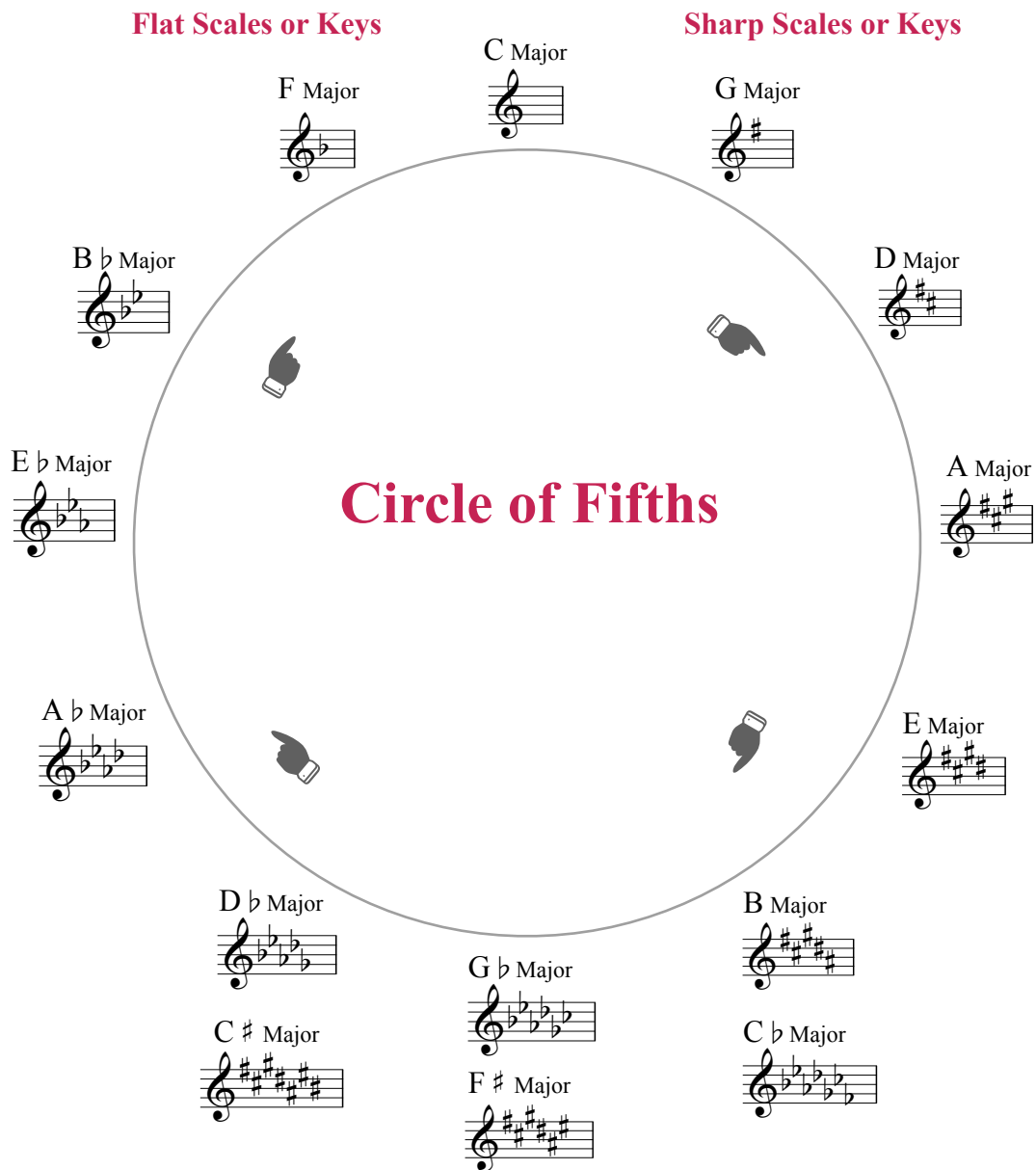
## 7-3: The Circle of Fifths



*Press the speaker to hear it.*



**Circle of Fifths:** The Circle of Fifths organizes key signatures into a logical pattern. As you travel in a clockwise direction, the tonic note moves up five degrees. As you move clockwise in the circle, a sharp is added to or a flat is subtracted from each new key.



# Chapter 7: Major Key Signatures

## 7-4: Identifying Key Signatures



*Press the speaker to hear it.*



**Names of Keys:** The Tonic note determines the name of the key.



**Identifying Sharp Keys:** Find the name of the key one step above the last sharp.

E Major



**Identifying Flat Keys:** The name of the key is the same name as the second last flat.

A  $\flat$  Major