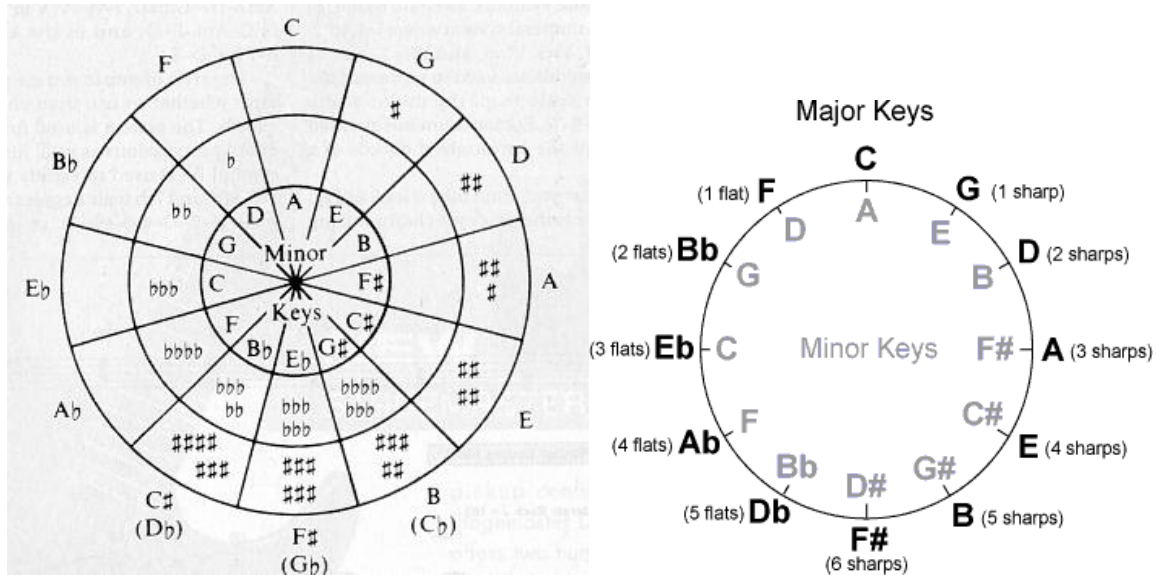


## The Circle of Fifths

• [Other Guitar Basics](#)



### How to Use The Circle of Fifths:

- The key of C is at the top and contains **no** sharps and flats.
- As you move clockwise around the outside of the circle (toward G and D), you will find major key signatures that contain sharps (#), and the number of sharps in each key grows with each step around the circle. Each new key that you encounter is a perfect 5th **up** from the previous key. This corresponds to 7 frets up on your guitar.
- As you move counter-clockwise around the outside of the circle (toward F and Bb), you will find major key signatures that contain flats (b), and the number of flats in each key grows with each step around the circle. Each new key that you encounter is a perfect 5th **down** from the previous key. This corresponds to 7 frets down on your guitar.
- You can find the **relative minor** of any major key by looking at the corresponding key on the **inside** of the circle that matches the location of the major key on the outside of the circle.
- You can find the I-IV-V chord progression of perhaps 90% of Country and Rock songs with the circle of fifths. Example: A song played in the key of G would have the G as the I chord, the C as the IV chord (preceding the G in the circle), and the D as the V chord (following the G in the circle). Another I-IV-V song in the key of E would have the chords E (I), A (IV), and B (V) in the progression.