



Circle of Fifths (Beginner)

A map of how keys are related

The Circle of Fifths shows every major key arranged so that each step clockwise is a fifth higher. It tells you how many sharps or flats a key has and which minor key is its relative.

Major keys and their relative minors

Key	# / b	Relative minor	Notes
C	0	Am	C D E F G A B
G	1#	Em	G A B C D E F#
D	2#	Bm	D E F# G A B C#
A	3#	F#m	A B C# D E F# G#
E	4#	C#m	E F# G# A B C# D#
F	1b	Dm	F G A Bb C D E
Bb	2b	Gm	Bb C D Eb F G A
Eb	3b	Cm	Eb F G Ab Bb C D

How to use it

- Moving clockwise adds one sharp each time.
- Moving anti-clockwise adds one flat each time.
- Keys next to each other share many notes and sound closely related.
- The relative minor is always three semitones down from the major.

You don't need to memorise the whole circle at once — start with C, G, F, D and Bb. Those cover most beginner songs.