

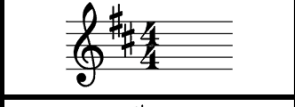
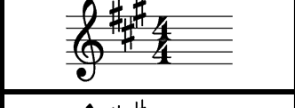

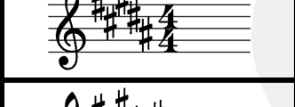
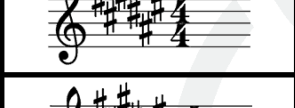
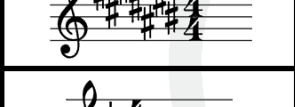
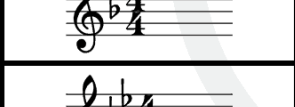
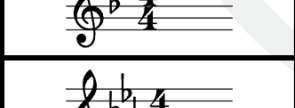
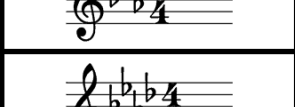
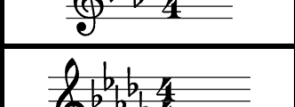
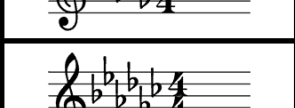
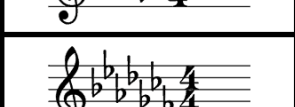



Key Signature	Major Key	Minor Key
	C	a
	G	e
	D	b
	A	f sharp
	E	c sharp
	B	g sharp
	F Sharp	d sharp
	C Sharp	a sharp
	F	d
	B Flat	g
	E Flat	c
	A Flat	f
	D Flat	b flat
	G Flat	e flat
	C Flat	a flat

## C Major and A Minor

Though we're about to show you some useful tricks, the **first** thing you need to know when memorizing your key signatures is that there is **no trick** for C Major or A Minor. Both C Major and A Minor have *no* accidentals in their key signature, so you'll have to memorize these without any hints! The key signature for these keys looks like this:



## Major Sharp Keys

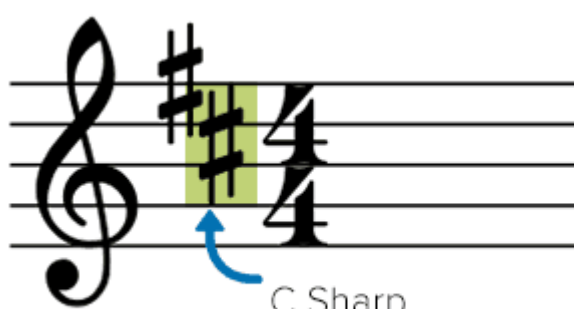
When you're approached with a *sharp* (#) key in your **sheet music**, you can determine the corresponding **major key** by observing the **last sharp** (or the sharp furthest to the *right*) in the key signature. Look at the example below and see the sharp highlighted in green.



To determine the major key, all you have to do it **go one half-step up from the last sharp listed**.

- In this example, an **A-Sharp** is highlighted.
- One half-step up from A-Sharp is B.
- The key is B Major.

Another way to think of this method is to think of the last sharp listed as the **leading tone** of the major key. In B Major, the leading tone (or 7th scale degree) is A-Sharp. Now that you know the hack, you can easily use this trick on any other key containing sharps.



C Sharp  
One half-step up: D Major



D Sharp  
One half-step up: E Major



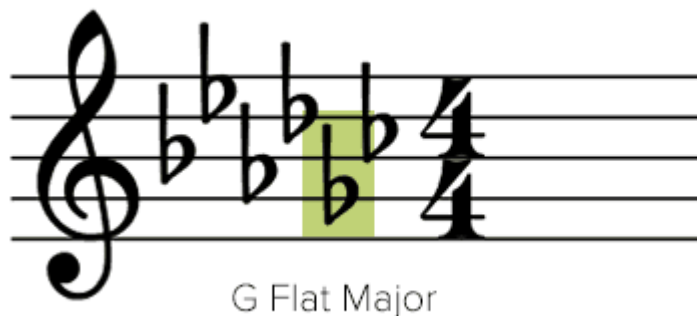
O

## Major Flat Keys

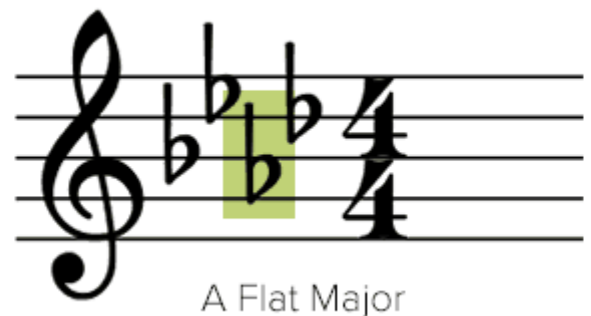
If you thought that was easy, our trick for memorizing your major flat keys (b) is even easier! With flat key signatures, all you have to do is **look to the second flat from the right** to determine the **major key**.



In the example above, notice that a D-Flat is highlighted in green. And just like that, **D Flat Major** is the key! No additional steps required!



G Flat Major



A Flat Major

We have to admit, there is *one* catch with this trick. Since the key of F Major only has **one** flat, it's impossible to locate the *second* flat from the right in that key signature. So just like you'll have to wire C Major and A Minor into your brain with no extra help, you'll have to do the same for F Major.



F Major only has **one** flat: B-flat.

## Minor Keys

The true key to memorizing your **minor keys** is memorizing your **major keys** first! Once you know which major key signature you're in, you can find its relative minor key in seconds!

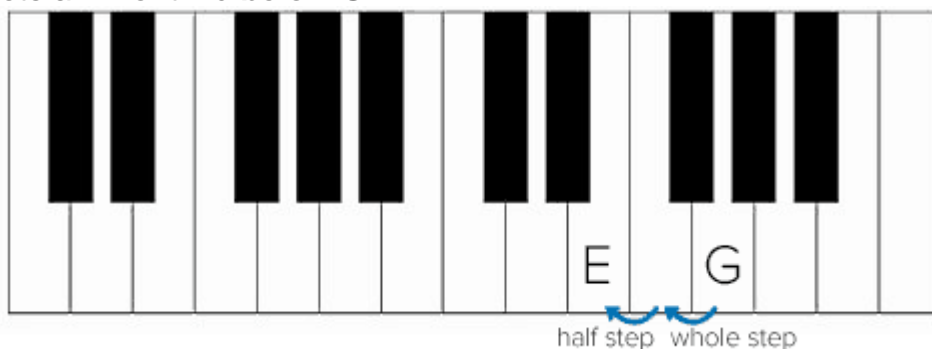
To determine the minor key, simply go **down a minor third** from the major key.

You can think of a minor third as 1.5 steps, three half steps, or one whole-step and one half-step. Choose the method that makes the most sense to you!

Now, let's put this trick into practice! Say you are given the key signature below:



We can determine by using the trick we learned earlier that one half-step up from F Sharp is G, therefore we are in **G Major**. Now, to find the relative minor key, find the note a minor third **below** G.



Looking at the image above, you can determine that the **relative minor** key for G Major is **E Minor**.

If this method is a little too confusing, you can also find the relative minor by determining the **sixth** scale degree in the major key. E is the sixth note (or scale degree) in the G Major scale.

