

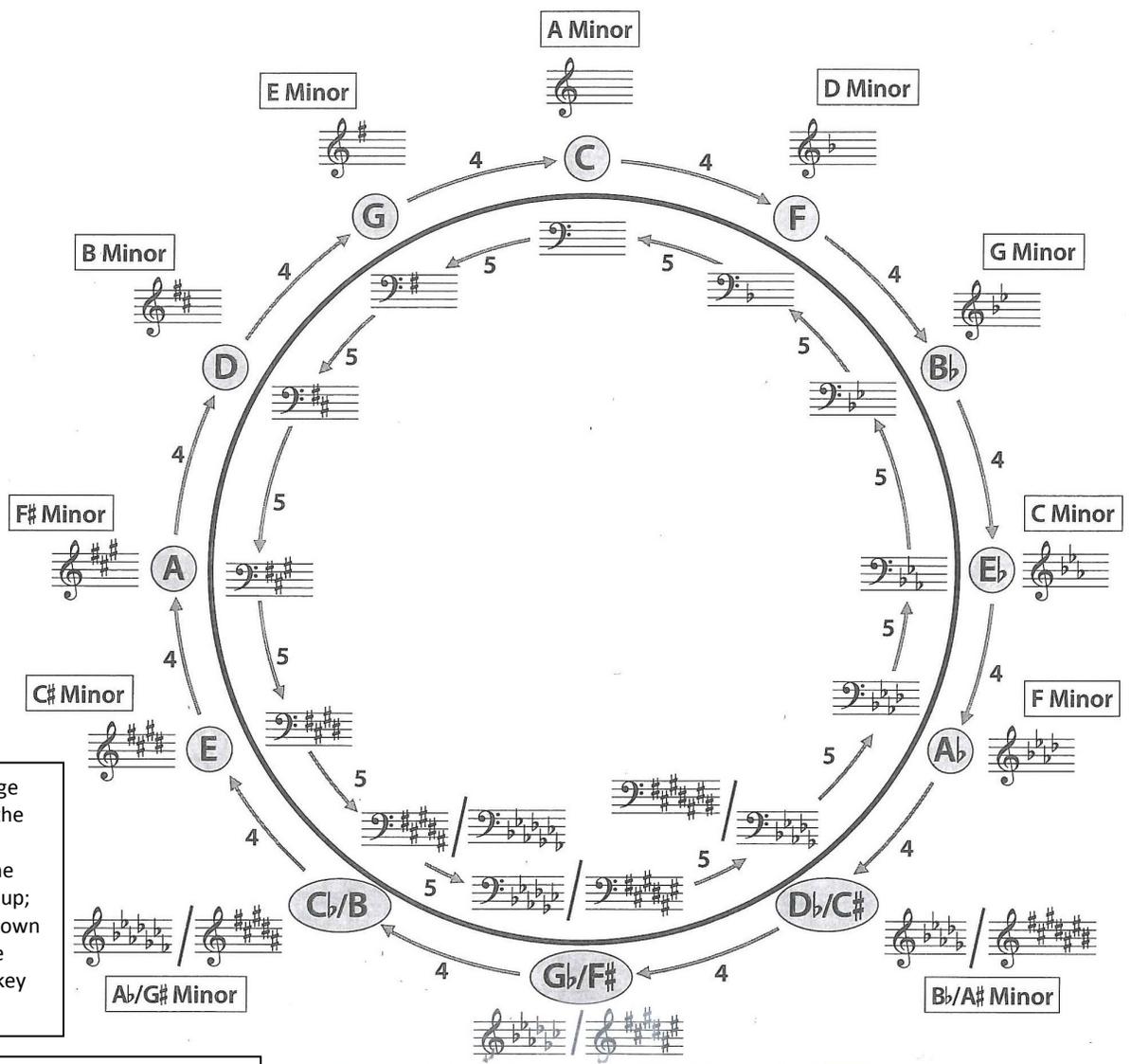
S
C
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S

The Circle of Fourths (also called the Circle of Fifths) is a tool showing the relationship between major and minor keys. Moving *clockwise* around the circle, each key name is the same as the fourth scale degree of the key before it. For example, if you begin with the key of C Major and move one key *clockwise* along the circle, you reach the key of F Major. The note F is the *fourth* scale degree of the key of C Major, therefore the key of F Major is a "fourth" apart from the key of C Major. This pattern continues around the circle (going clockwise), giving the circle of fourths its name. (If you travel *counterclockwise* around the circle, each key name is the same as the *fifth* scale degree of the key before it, so the circle can also be called the circle of fifths.)

The Circle of Fourths also organizes the key signatures by the number of sharps or flats in each key. Traveling *clockwise* from the key of C Major, each key signature adds one flat, up to seven flats (one for each letter of the musical alphabet). The flats are added in the *order of flats*: B, E, A, D, G, C, F. Traveling *counterclockwise* (along the circle of fifths) from the key of C Major, each key signature adds one sharp, up to seven sharps. The sharps are added in the *order of sharps*: F, C, G, D, A, E, B. A note regarding the bottom of the circle (enharmonic keys): Just as enharmonic pitches (such as Band C) have two names for the same sound, enharmonic keys include identical sets of pitches but name each pitch differently. These enharmonic key pairs include B (S s) and C (7 s), F# (6#s) and G (6 s), and C# (7#s) and Db(5b's).

The names of major keys are indicated by circles.
The names of minor keys are indicated by rectangles.



Natural Minor-no change
Harmonic Minor-raise the 7th step
Melodic Minor- raise the 6th and 7th step going up; natural minor going down
Relative Minor/Relative Major-share the same key signature

Scale Steps	
Major	W W ½ W W W ½
Natural Minor	W ½ W W ½ W W
Harmonic Minor	W ½ W W ½ W ½ ½
Melodic Minor	up-W ½ W W W ½
	Down-same as natural

