

CIRCLE OF FIFTHS EXPLAINED

FIFTHS ARE COMMON IN MUSIC.

- Outside of a chord makes a fifth.
- Cadences (endings) use fifths: II V I or sometimes just V I.
- Jumping between primary chords (I, IV and V) create 5ths. (I up to V or IV up to I)
- Learning scales in the order of the circle of fifths will help you:
 - Learn major scales & chords.
 - Recognize key signatures.
 - Know I and V chord in every key.

ORDER OF SHARPS & FLATS:

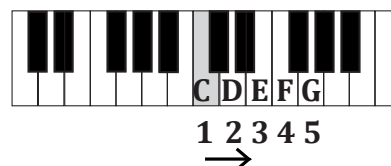
ORDER THAT SHARPS AND FLATS ARE ADDED TO SCALES.

Order of Sharps: **F C G D A E B** **F**ather **C**harles **G**oes **D**own **A**nd **E**nds **B**attle

Order of Flats: **B E A D G C F** **B**attle **E**nds **A**nd **D**own **G**oes **C**harle's **F**ather

(notice the order of flats is just the order of sharps backwards)

SHARP SCALES: GO FORWARD THROUGH THE CIRCLE TO FIND SCALES WITH SHARPS.
(CLOCKWISE)



1. Start with C Scale.
2. Go up 5. Next scale starts on this note. (Make sure to start counting on 1st note of scale.)
3. Add next sharp in order of sharps (F C G D A E B). Keep sharps from previous scale.
4. Play new scale.
5. Repeat until all 7 sharps have been added.. (Eventually circles around to C.)

Hint: Play the chord (1,3,5) that comes from the scale and the top note of the chord (5) is the beginning note of the next scale. (with sharp scales only)

b FLAT SCALES: GO BACKWARDS IN THE CIRCLE TO FIND SCALES WITH FLATS.
(COUNTERCLOCKWISE)



1. Start with C Scale.
2. Go down ↓ 5. Next scale starts on this note. (Make sure to start counting on 1st note of scale.)
3. Add next flat in order of flats (B E A D G C F). Keep flats from previous scale.
4. Play new scale.
5. Repeat until all 7 flats have been added. (after 7 it cycles back around to C)

Hint: After F scale, all flat scales start on a flat.