

# Key Signatures

## Major Keys

Knowing what key a song is in, is crucial for learning and sight reading. This is particularly true for vocal sight reading. When using the moveable solfege scale (do, re, me, fa, sol, la, ti, do) "do" will always start on the name of the key. In other words, if I am in the Key of C Major, then "do" will be on "C." If I am in the Key of G Major, "do" will be on "G."

In a major key containing sharps, the name of the key is 1/2 higher than the last sharp.  
In other words, if I only have 1 sharp (F#) the name of the key is the G major.

Memorizing the order of the sharps can easily be done using the following mnemonic device:  
**Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bananas. (F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#, B#)**

Musical notation for major keys with 0 to 3 sharps. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) for each key signature. The keys shown are: No sharps or flats: Key of C Major; 1 sharp: Key of G Major; 2 sharps: Key of D Major; 3 sharps: Key of A Major. Each key signature is represented by a set of notes on the staff with the appropriate sharp signs.

Musical notation for major keys with 4 to 7 sharps. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) for each key signature. The keys shown are: 4 sharps: Key of E Major; 5 sharps: Key of B Major; 6 sharps: Key of F Sharp Major; 7 sharps: Key of C Sharp Major. Each key signature is represented by a set of notes on the staff with the appropriate sharp signs.

In a major key containing flats, the name of the key is the second to the last flat.  
(The key with 1 flat must be memorized. It is the Key of F Major.)

In other words, if I only have 2 flats, (B flat and E flat) the name of the key is B Flat Major. If I have 3 flats (B flat, E flat, A flat) the name of the key is E Flat Major.

Memorizing the order of the flats can easily be done by using the following mnemonic device:  
**But Even A Dumb Goat Can Fly. (B flat, E flat, A flat, G flat, C flat, and F flat)**

Musical notation for major keys with 1 to 3 flats. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) for each key signature. The keys shown are: 1 flat: Key of F Major; 2 flats: Key of B Flat Major; 3 flats: Key of E Flat Major. Each key signature is represented by a set of notes on the staff with the appropriate flat signs.

Musical notation for major keys with 4 to 6 flats. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) for each key signature. The keys shown are: 4 flats: Key of A Flat Major; 5 flats: Key of D Flat Major; 6 flats: Key of G Flat Major. Each key signature is represented by a set of notes on the staff with the appropriate flat signs.