

# Key Signatures

A key signature is written in the staff and shows what accidentals (sharps # or flats b) a song or section uses. Songs that are either in the key of C or are in no key (atonal) do not have sharps or flats in the key signature.

## Sharp Keys

The first sharp in a key is always F# and additional sharps are added a fifth away. The last sharp in a key is the seventh scale degree. A quick way to identify the major scale that is associated with a sharp key signature is to raise the last sharp by a half step.

**Key of G Major**

**Key of F# Major**

Another way to identify sharp key signatures is to memorize how many sharps are in each key.

Numbers of sharps in the key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Name of major scale	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#
Name of natural minor	E	B	F#	C#	G#	D#	A#
Letter of last sharp	F#	C#	G#	D#	A#	E#	B#

## Flat Keys

The first flat in a key is always Bb and additional flats are added a fourth away. The last flat in a key is the fourth scale degree. The key of F has one flat and the second to last flat in every other key is the name of tonic.

**Key of Bb Major**

**Key of Ab Major**

Another way to identify flat key signatures is to memorize how many flats are in each key.

Numbers of flats in the key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Name of major scale	F	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb
Name of natural minor	D	G	C	F	Bb	Eb	Ab
Letter of last flat	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb	Fb