

Key Signatures (Guitar)

Here are the “Major” and “Relative Minor” Key Signatures that Guitar players should be familiar with. The diagram on the left shows what the Key Signature looks like in music notation (how to recognize keys, scales), and the Major Keys (and the Relative Minor Keys) are shown to the right.



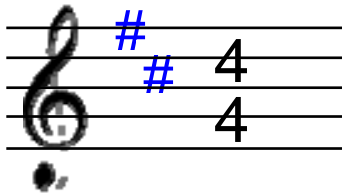
Key of “C” C-D-E-F-G-A-B (No Sharps or Flats)

Relative Minor Key is “A” A-B-C-D-E-F-G



Key of “G” G-A-B-C-D-E-F# (Has 1 Sharp)

Relative Minor Key is “E” E-F#-G-A-B-C-D



Key of “D” D-E-F#-G-A-B-C# (Has 2 Sharps)

Relative Minor Key is “B” B-C#-D-E-F#-G-A



Key of “A” A-B-C#-D-E-F#-G# (Has 3 Sharps)

Relative Minor Key is “F#” F#-G#-A-B-C#-D-E



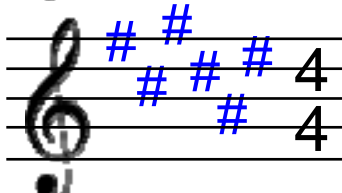
Key of “E” E-F#-G#-A-B-C#-D# (Has 4 Sharps)

Relative Minor Key is “C#” C#-D#-E-F#-G#-A-B



Key of “B” B-C#-D#-E-F#-G#-A# (Has 5 Sharps)

Relative Minor Key is “G#” G#-A#-B-C#-D#-E-F#



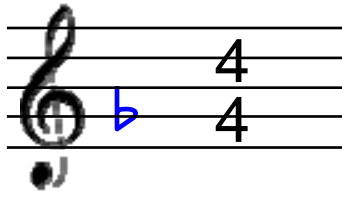
Key of “F#” F#-G#-A#-B-C#-D#-E# (Has 6 Sharps)

Relative Minor Key is “D#” D#-E#-F#-G#-A#-B-C#



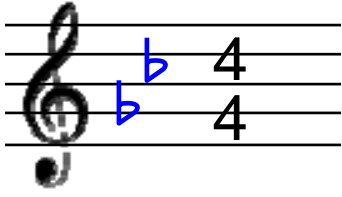
Key of “C#” C#-D#-E#-F#-G#-A#-B# (Has 7 Sharps)

Relative Minor Key is “A#” A#-B#-C#-D#-E#-F#-G#



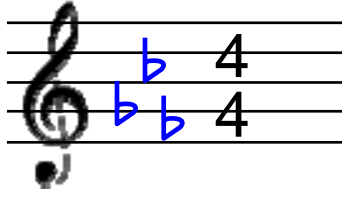
Key of "F" F-G-A-B♭-C-D-E (Has 1 Flat)

Relative Minor Key is "D" A-B♭-C-D-E-F-G



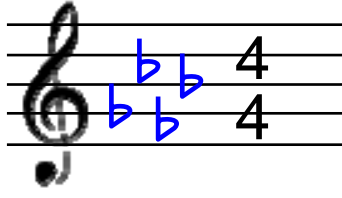
Key of "B♭" B♭-C-D-E♭-F-G-A (Has 2 Flats)

Relative Minor Key is "G" G-A-B♭-C-D-E♭-F



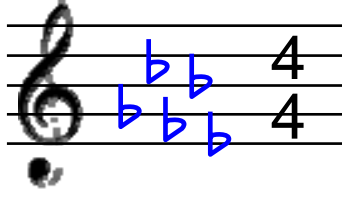
Key of "E♭" E♭-F-G-A♭-B♭-C-D (Has 3 Flats)

Relative Minor Key is "C" C-D-E♭-F-G-A♭-B♭



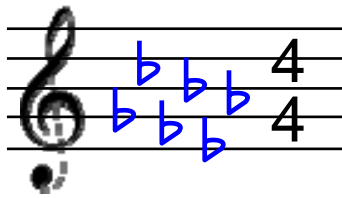
Key of "A♭" A♭-B♭-C-D♭-E♭-F-G (Has 4 Flats)

Relative Minor Key is "F" F-G-A♭-B♭-C-D♭-E♭



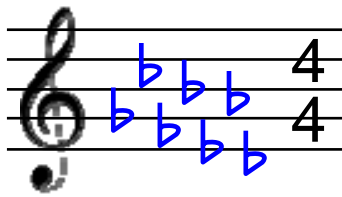
Key of "D♭" D♭-E♭-F-G♭-A♭-B♭-C (Has 5 Flats)

Relative Minor Key is "B♭" B♭-C-D♭-E♭-F-G♭-A♭



Key of "G♭" D♭-E♭-F-G♭-A♭-B♭-C♭ (Has 6 Flats)

Relative Minor Key is "E♭" E♭-F-G♭-A♭-B♭-C♭-D♭



Key of "C♭" C♭-D♭-E♭-F♭-G♭-A♭-B♭ (Has 7 Flats)

Relative Minor Key is "A♭" A♭-B♭-C♭-D♭-E♭-F♭-G♭

Even though all the Key signatures are shown – there will be some Key Signatures that are going to be used more than others – and some you may never see. It is unlikely that you will see the Key of C# used a whole lot (since C# is the same note as D♭, and the Key of D♭ only has 5 flats vs. the 7 sharps of C# - it would be easier just to use the Key of D♭). With tablature being an easy way to read notes these days, many guitar players are not learning to read music. It is recommended that guitar players that are interested in learning Jazz, or want to be a studio musician should learn to read music.

Key Signatures allow us to understand which notes are involved in Keys, chords that can be used, and can also help us understand the different "modes" of scales (scale "modes" are covered in more advanced guitar lessons). All of which are important aspects of reading music that all guitar players should know and understand...