

“Relative” Key Signatures (Guitar)

Every “Major” Key will have a “Relative minor” Key. The Key Signature for both Keys will be the same. The “Major” and “minor” scales are both built from the same notes. The main difference between the scales is the arrangement of half-steps and whole-steps. The “Relative minor” scales start from the 6th note of the Major scale. The following information should give you a better understanding of how “Relative” Key Signatures work.

Note: It should be noted that these days “Relative” minor scales are referred to as just “minor” scales. The information provided here is intended to teach guitar players how minor scales are constructed (the very basics).

Relative “minor” scales are built upon the sixth note of the Major scales:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
C Major Scale:	C	- D	- E	- F	- G	- A	- B
A minor Scale:	A	- B	- C	- D	- E	- F	- G

The “Major” and “minor” scales are both built from the same notes:

Example 1 C Major Scale: C - D - E - F - G - A - B
 A minor Scale: A - B - C - D - E - F - G

C Major Scale (No Sharps or Flats)

C D E F G A B C B A G F E D C

A minor Scale (No Sharps or Flats)

A B C D E F G A G F E D C B A

Example 2: A Major Scale: A - B - C# - D - E - F# - G#
 F# minor Scale: F# - G# - A - B - C# - D - E

A Major Scale (Has 3 Sharps)

A B C# D E F# G# A G# F# E D C# B A

F# minor Scale (Has 3 Sharps)

F# G# A B C# D E F# E D C# B A G# F#

Example 3: Bb Major Scale: Bb - C - D - Eb - F - G - A
 G minor Scale: G - A - Bb - C - D - Eb - G

Bb Major Scale (Has 2 Flats)

Bb C D Eb F G A Bb A G F Eb D C Bb

G minor Scale (Has 2 Flats)

G A Bb C D Eb F G F Eb D C Bb A G

Here are all the Key Signatures with Major and Relative minor Keys. The Keys with Sharps will be listed first (Keys with Flats are listed next). You can use this information as a reference.



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 "F#" F#-G#-A#-B-C#-D#-E



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

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



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

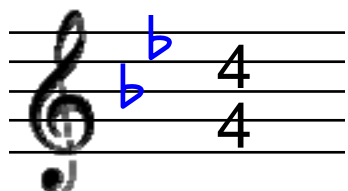
Relative Minor Key is "A#" A#-B#-C#-D#-E#-F#-G#

Here are all the Key Signatures with their Major and Relative minor Keys that have “Flats” in them.
You can use this information as a reference.



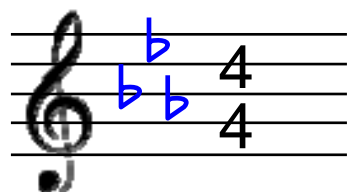
Key of F F-G-A-B \flat -C-D-E (Has 1 Flat)

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



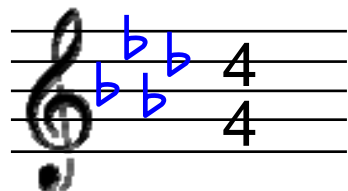
Key of B \flat B \flat -C-D-E \flat -F-G-A (Has 2 Flats)

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



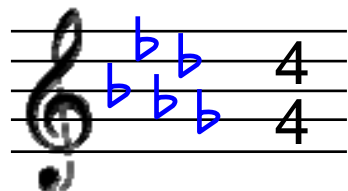
Key of E \flat E \flat -F-G-A \flat -B \flat -G-A (Has 3 Flats)

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



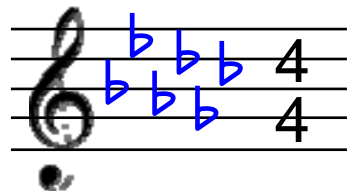
Key of A \flat A \flat -B \flat -C-D \flat -E \flat -F-G (Has 4 Flats)

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



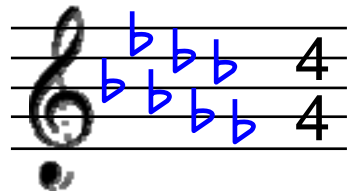
Key of D \flat D \flat -E \flat -F-G \flat -A \flat -B \flat -C (Has 5 Flats)

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



Key of G \flat D \flat -E \flat -F-G \flat -A \flat -B \flat -C \flat (Has 6 Flats)

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



Key of C \flat C \flat -D \flat -E \flat -F \flat -G \flat -A \flat -B \flat (Has 7 Flats)

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