

CYCLE OF 5ths



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	G	D	A	E	B	F #	C#

==>Write the numbers 0 to 7 across the top of a page. Under the 0 start with the key of C. We all know that it has 0 sharps and 0 flats. What's 5 up from C? It's G. And you can get that by simply counting up or using the saying on the webpage. Here it is again: Father Charles Goes Down And Ends Battle.

See how G follows C etc.?

F => C => G => D => A => E => B

==>How many sharps are in the key of A? Well, you look on your chart and you see it's underneath the number 3. So there are 3 sharps in the key of A.

==>What notes are sharp in the key of A? This is where the "Father Charles..." saying is really handy. Simply take the letters from the first 3 words in the saying. The key of A has F#, C# and G#. Simple!

==>What the heck are the keys F# and C#? Those are simply keys that have black keys as the root. One of the places on your guitar you can find F# is at the 2nd fret on your low E string.



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	F	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	Cb

==>Now write numbers across your page again. This time do it with the C starting under the number 7 and go across the page to the left. Then make all the keys flat with a "b" symbol. Except for C and F.

==>Very cool! You now have the same information for all the flat keys.

==> How many flats in the key of F and what is it? It's Bb.

==>And now you know why the IV Chord in the key of F is Bb. It's because the letter B is 4 letters up from F, BUT in the key of F, that is the one note that happens to be flat!

==>Remember in order to know which note is flat, say the "Father Charles..." saying backwards! Battle Ends And Down Goes Charles' Father. What letter is first? B! So B is the note that is flat when there is 1 flat in the key.

==>What notes are flat in the key of Eb?

==>Well, there are 3 flats (see Chart). Now the saying backwards is Battle Ends And...you didn't need any more. The key of Eb has Bb, Eb and Ab!

==>You just need to remember that in keys that have flats C and F are the only ones that start on "white keys."



==>Here are some questions for you to try for homework :-) NOTE: These are for Major Keys only. Minor Keys are a different lesson. I highly recommend learning the Major Keys really well first.

- 1) What is the IV chord in the key of D?
- 2) What is the dominant chord in the key of F?
- 3) What notes are sharp in the key of E?
- 4) What is the subdominant chord in the key of B?
- 5) What is the subdominant chord in the key of Eb?
- 6) What is the tonic chord in the key of C#?
- 7) What notes are flattened in the key of Db?
- 8) What is the ii chord in the key of D?
- 9) What are the 3 Secondary Chords in the key of A?
- 10) What's your favourite musical instrument to play? :-)

Answers are on the bottom of the webpage.