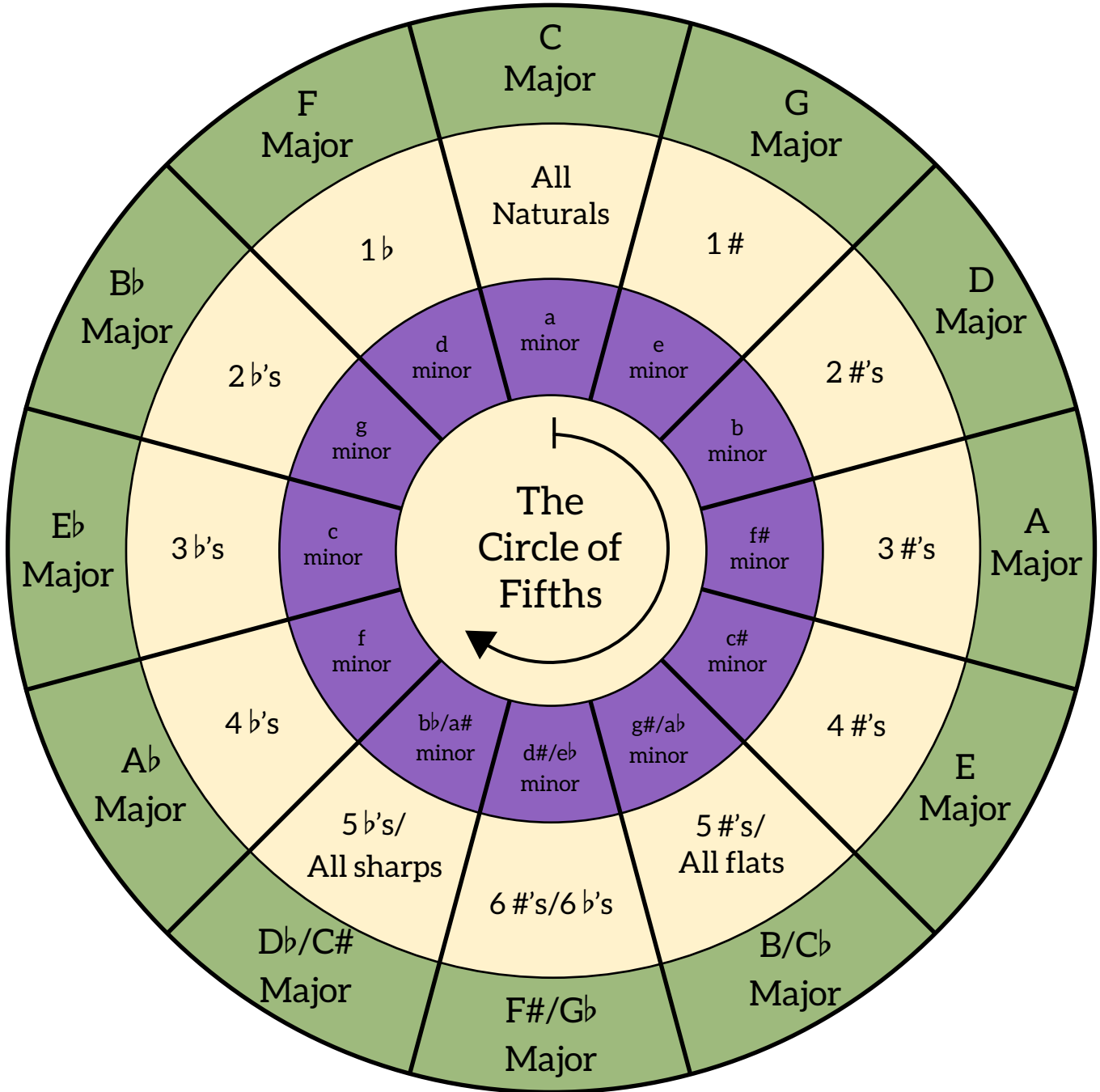


# The Beginner's Guide to Major Scales



**Order of Sharps:** F, C, G, D, A, E, B (Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bacon)

**Order of Flats** (starting at F and working counterclockwise): B, E, A, D, G, C, F (order of sharps reversed)

# The First Five

## A Sharp (#) Start

A note about fingering - ALL SCALES follow a universal rule: fingers must alternate playing in groups of three and four. For instance, in the C scale below the RH starts by playing a group of three fingers (1-2-3) followed by a group of four fingers (1-2-3-4). Frequently there are substitute fingers used at the beginnings and turn-around of scales (notice RH finger 5 at the end of the C scale).

Tip: All five of these scales use the same fingering!

RH	1	2	3x	1	2	3	4	5
All Naturals	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
LH	5	4	3	2	1x	3	2	1

\* C natural scale (above) is all naturals, C# scale is all sharps, and C<sup>b</sup> scale is all flats.

The seventh note of the scale is always the newly added sharp!



RH	1	2	3x	1	2	3	4	5
1 #	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F#</b>	<b>G</b>
LH	5	4	3	2	1x	3	2	1

RH	1	2	3x	1	2	3	4	5
2 #'s	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F#</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C#</b>	<b>D</b>
LH	5	4	3	2	1x	3	2	1

RH	1	2	3x	1	2	3	4	5
3 #'s	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C#</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F#</b>	<b>G#</b>	<b>A</b>
LH	5	4	3	2	1x	3	2	1

RH	1	2	3x	1	2	3	4	5
4 #'s	<b>E</b>	<b>F#</b>	<b>G#</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C#</b>	<b>D#</b>	<b>E</b>
LH	5	4	3	2	1x	3	2	1

# The Enharmonics

The scales that are boxed together are really the same scale. When there are two different names given for the same note, they are “enharmonically equivalent”.

Tip: When you play a group of two black notes, your hands make a number two (peace sign). When you play a group of three black notes, your hands make a number three. This works for BOTH hands for all the enharmonic scales!

RH	1	2	3x	1	2	3	4	5
5 #’s	B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#	B
LH	4	3	2	1x	4	3	2	1

RH	1	2	3x	1	2	3	4	5
All b’s	C $\flat$	D $\flat$	E $\flat$	F $\flat$	G $\flat$	A $\flat$	B $\flat$	C $\flat$
LH	4	3	2	1x	4	3	2	1

RH	2	3	4x	1	2	3x	1	2
6 #’s	F#	G#	A#	B	C#	D#	E#	F#
LH	4	3	2	1x	3	2	1x	2

RH	2	3	4x	1	2	3x	1	2
6 b’s	G $\flat$	A $\flat$	B $\flat$	C $\flat$	D $\flat$	E $\flat$	F	G $\flat$
LH	4	3	2	1	3	2	1x	2

RH	2	3x	1	2	3	4x	1	2
All #’s	C#	D#	E#	F#	G#	A#	B#	C#
LH	3	2	1x	4	3	2	1x	2

RH	2	3x	1	2	3	4x	1	2
5 b’s	D $\flat$	E $\flat$	F	G $\flat$	A $\flat$	B $\flat$	C	D $\flat$
LH	3	2	1x	4	3	2	1x	2

# The Final Flat (b) Four

The RH continues the pattern of making twos and threes on the groups of 2 and 3 black notes for ALL the flat scales even though these scales do not contain all five black notes.

RH	2	3x	1	2	3x	1	2	3
4 b's	<b>A<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>B<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>E<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A<sup>b</sup></b>
LH	3	2	1x	4	3	2	1x	2

\*For the A-flat scale, the hands play opposite fingering groups at overlapping times. The LH starts a group of fingers while the RH is finishing the opposite one. For instance, the LH crosses over to start a group of 4 on the D-flat while the RH is about to finish up a group of 3 fingers.

RH	2x	1	2	3	4x	1	2	3
3 b's	<b>E<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>B<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E<sup>b</sup></b>
LH	3	2	1x	4	3	2	1x	2

\*For the E-flat scale, the LH starts a group of fingers while the RH is finishing it. For instance, the RH is ending a group of 4 fingers on A-flat and B-flat while the LH is crossing over to start a group of 4 fingers on A-flat.

RH	2x	1	2	3x	1	2	3	4
2 b's	<b>B<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B<sup>b</sup></b>
LH	3	2	1x	4	3	2	1x	2

\*For the B-flat scale, the hands are opposite of each other. The RH ends a group of fingers precisely when the LH starts the opposite group. For instance, the RH ends a group of 3 fingers on E-flat at the same time the LH starts a group of 4 fingers on E-flat.

The fourth note of the scale is always the newly added flat starting with the F scale and working backwards through the circle of fifths.



RH	1	2	3	4x	1	2	3	4
1 b	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
LH	5	4	3	2	1x	3	2	1

\*For the F scale, the LH starts a group right after the RH has begun the same group. For instance, the RH begins a group of 3 fingers on C. The LH then begins its own group of 3 fingers on the next note, D.