

THE FLAT KEYS

8. STORY

The image shows a musical exercise on a single staff. The top part is a treble clef staff with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. The key signature changes from C major to F major (one flat), then to Bb major (two flats), and finally to Eb major (three flats). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T (Treble), A (Middle), and B (Bass). The fret numbers are: T: 3 5 7 8 10 12 14 15; A: 3 5 2 3 5 3 5 6; B: 1 3 5 1 3 5 2 3.

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Learning the different Key centers will help us understand how chords are constructed and chord progressions for songs are created. The major scale formula and the order of chords go hand in hand with this information.

We can construct the flat(b) keys in this exercise moving up in intervals of a 4th. Starting in the key of C we go up a 4th to the key of F. Build this and each successive key using the major scale formula.

This is an exercise to write out first and learn to play as further study. Use the above tab as a starting point for playing.

Most of use arrive at a point asking "Is it A sharp or is it B flat?" The answer is, Always use the next letter. Never use the same letter twice.

The 4th above F will be the key of... The 4th of that next key is ... Continue with these steps until you reach the key of Cb where all 7 notes will be flatted.

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