

Tricks for the Circle of Fifths

Look for the order of sharps and flats. Use sayings to remember:

- Father Christmas Gave Dad An Electric Blanket.
Blanket Exploded And Dad Got Cold Feet.
- Father Charles Goes Down And Ends Battle.
Battle Ends And Down Goes Charles' Father.

Look for **BEAD** twice.

Rule of Sevens:

Two keys with the same letter name add to seven. One is a flat key and one a sharp. One name has an accidental and the other does not.

$$B\flat (2\flat) + B (5\sharp) = 7$$

$$F (1\flat) + F\sharp (6\sharp) = 7$$

Picture the sharp keys as made up of the same number of lines as the number of sharps in the key.

$$\begin{array}{ll} G = 1 & D\sharp = 5 \\ D = 2 & F\sharp = 6 \\ A = 3 & C\sharp = 7 \\ E = 4 & \end{array}$$

Study how the circle really is arranged by the interval of a fifth.

For violin players:

There's no C string, therefore C Major has no # or \flat .

Name your strings from low to high.

G has 1#. D has 2#. A has 3#. E has 4#.

Name the low-1st-finger note from high to low.

F has 1 \flat . B \flat has 2 \flat . E \flat has 3 \flat . A \flat has 4 \flat .

Rule for Finding Key Signatures

Take the name of last sharp and go up one half step.

The second to last flat is the name of the key