

Order of Sharps & Flats

One Mnemonic — Both Orders

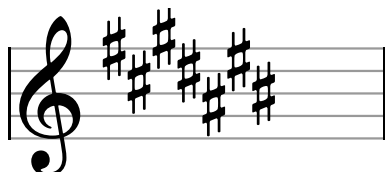
ORDER OF SHARPS — READ LEFT TO RIGHT

F*Father***C***Charles***G***Goes***D***Down***A***And***E***Ends***B***Battle*

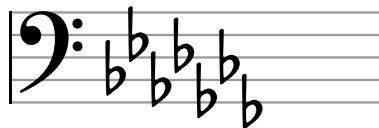
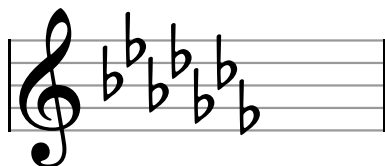
ORDER OF FLATS — READ RIGHT TO LEFT

Backwards, the same seven words give the flats: *"Battle Ends And Down Goes Charles' Father."*

Order of Sharps: F# C# G# D# A# E# B#



Order of Flats: Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb Fb



USING THE ORDER

BUILDING KEY SIGNATURES

Sharps and flats always appear **in this sequence** within a key signature. Three sharps are always F#, C#, G#; four flats are always Bb, Eb, Ab, Db.

SHARP KEYS

Take the **last sharp** and go up a half step. Last sharp F# → G major.

FLAT KEYS

The **second-to-last flat** is the key. Bb Eb → Bb major. (One flat is the exception: Bb alone is F major.)

RELATIVE MINOR

The relative minor tonic is the **6th scale degree** of the major scale — or three half-steps below the major tonic. C major → A minor.



PRACTICE THIS ONLINE

Free key-signature flashcards and drills — no sign-up.

music-theory-practice.com/reference/order-of-sharps-and-flats

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