



KEY SIGNATURES

There is a formulaic chart for determining what notes are in which keys.

Flat keys are formulated from the 4th note off the major scale.

Sharp keys are formulated from the 5th note of the major scale.



FLAT KEYS [b]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SHARP KEYS [#]
	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
F	G	A	B ^b	C	D	E	F
B ^b	C	D	E ^b	F	G	A	B ^b
E ^b	F	G	A ^b	B ^b	C	D	E ^b
A ^b	B ^b	C	D ^b	E ^b	F	G	A ^b
D ^b	E ^b	F	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b	C	D ^b
G ^b	A ^b	B ^b	C ^b	D ^b	E ^b	F	G ^b
C ^b	D ^b	E ^b	F ^b	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b	C ^b

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
G	A	B	C	D	E	F [#]	G
D	E	F [#]	G	A	B	C [#]	D
A	B	C [#]	D	E	F [#]	G [#]	A
E	F [#]	G [#]	A	B	C [#]	D [#]	E
B	C [#]	D [#]	E	F [#]	G [#]	A [#]	B
F [#]	G [#]	A [#]	B	C [#]	D [#]	E [#]	F [#]
C [#]	D [#]	E [#]	F [#]	G [#]	A [#]	B [#]	C [#]



HOW TO CHANGE KEYS

Using the Key Signature chart, simply take the root note of each chord in the song and write them down without any other prefix's.

EG: A song in the key of **C** containing a **C Major (C)**, **A Minor (Am)**, **F Major (F)** and **G Seventh (G7)** would simply be rooted as **C, A, F & G**. Now you have this basic info, all you need to do is find the numeric equivalent of each note from the C Major Scale, in this case **1, 6, 4 & 5**.

To switch to any other key, simply find the scale you wish to switch too and then apply the notes that fall under the same numbers; **1, 6, 4, 5**:

EG: To change to the key of **G Major**, you would need to write down the **1st, 6th, 4th** and **5th** notes of the **G Major scale** which are **G, E, C & D** then add the chord prefix back in, which would give you: **G Major (G)**, **E Minor (Em)**, **C Major (C)** and **D Seventh (D7)** as illustrated:

FLATS = b

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

C D E F G A B C

SHARPS = #

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

F G A B^b C D E F

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

G A B C D E F# G

B^b C D E^b F G A B^b

D E F# G A B C# D

But what if the song contains a chord that is not theoretically rooted in the scale it is written in??

EG: If the song above containing **C, Am, F** and **G7** also contained a **Bbm7** at some point, don't panic that there is no **Bb** note in the scale, as all you would need to do is to find the root note closest to it, in this case **B** is close to **Bb** and work out the distance between those notes – which is a half semitone, or half step down), and then find that same position in the scale you are switching too.

In this case position **7** of the **G major scale** would be an **F sharp (F#)**, so all you need to do is flatten that note by a half semi-tone, which would give you just an **F**, and add in the rest of the chord prefix's, which would give you **Fm7**.

EXERCISE: Have a go at changing some of your favourite songs that you may find a little difficult to sing because the melody is either too high or too low. The more you practice key changing, the more you become familiar with them and before you know it you will be able to change keys in your head and on the fly when jamming.