

# Major and minor scales RULES

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## **Order of the flats – BEADGCF**

(BEAD Good Clean Fun)

## **Order of the sharps – FCGDAEB**

(reverse of flats, Fair Cinderella Goes Dancing and Eats Bugs)

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When looking at a key signature, you can tell what Major scale it is:

**SHARPS – go up from the last sharp to find the name of the Major Scale**

**FLATS – 2<sup>nd</sup>-to-last flat is the Major Key**

Remember: this gives you the Major Key, but it could be minor!

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**To find the relative minor from the Major :** go down 2 note names (for example, C Major is relative to A minor). Check that they are both in each others' scales. For example, the note C is in the A minor scale, and the note A is in the C Major scale. This becomes important with scales like A Major and f # minor.

**To find the relative Major from a minor:** go up 2 note names (and do the same check: they need to be in each others' scales). D minor is related to F Major. F minor is related to A-flat Major.

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**The 3 minors:** natural, melodic, and harmonic

Natural = play exactly what's in the key signature

Harmonic = raise the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the scale, going up and down

Melodic = raise the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> notes of the scale, only going up. Play natural minor when you go down. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> notes are the second-to-last and 3<sup>rd</sup>-to-last notes – so in C Major, the 6<sup>th</sup> would be A and the 7<sup>th</sup> would be B.

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**There are 24 scales total:** 12 Major and 12 minor (there is exactly one minor for each Major). Of those 12 minor scales, each can be played natural, harmonic, or melodic. The Major scales are never altered.