

"Sharp" scales and the Order of Sharps

The Order of Sharps are always in the following order: F# C# G# D# A# E# B#.

The scale of G needs F# to create the upper tetrachord. The scale of D needs C# to create the upper tetrachord.

Each upper tetrachord adds one sharp until all 7 sharps in the Order of Sharps, F# C# G# D# A# E# and B# are used.

To recall the Order of Sharps use this phrase: **F**REDDIE **C**ATCHES **G**ISELLE **D**ANCING **A**ND **E**ND S **B**OOGIE

C major scale
no accidentals



G major scale
accidentals (1#):
F#



G major scale
key signature (1#):
F#



D major scale
accidentals (2#):
F# C#



D major scale
key signature (2#):
F# C#



A major scale
accidentals (3#):
F# C# G#



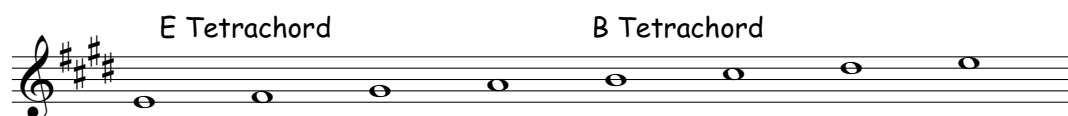
A major scale
key signature (3#):
F# C# G#



E major scale
accidentals (4#):
F# C# G# D#



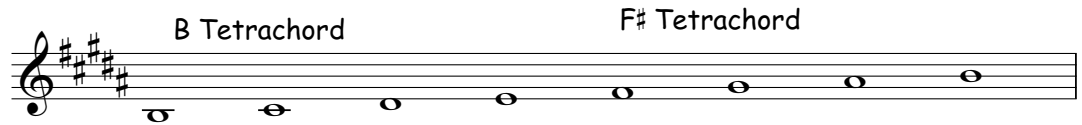
E major scale
key signature (4#):
F# C# G# D#



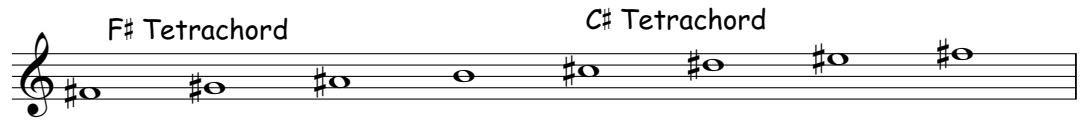
B major scale
accidentals (5#):
F# C# G# D# A#



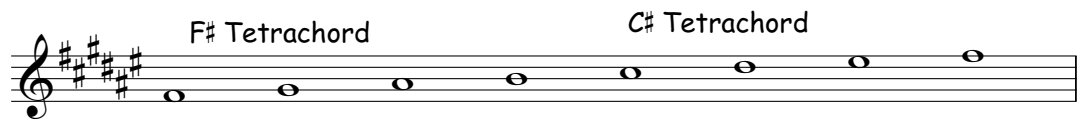
B major scale
key signature (5#):
F# C# G# D# A#



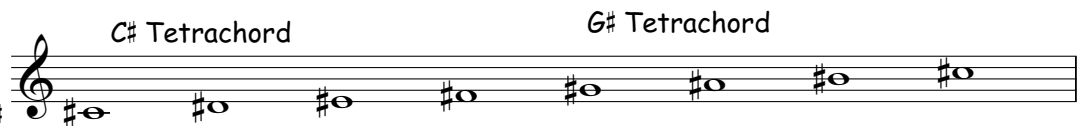
F# major scale
accidentals (6#):
F# C# G# D# A# E#



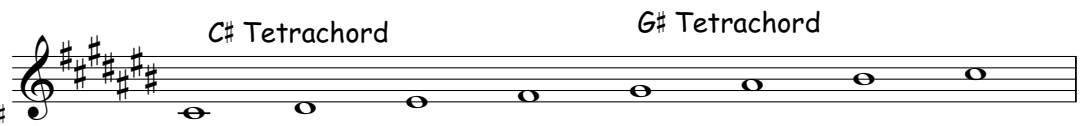
F# major scale
key signature (6#):
F# C# G# D# A# E#



C# major scale
accidentals (7#):
F# C# G# D# A# E# B#

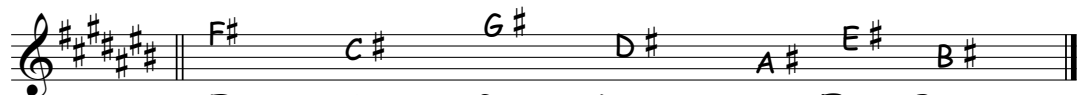


C# major scale
key signature (7#):
F# C# G# D# A# E# B#



THE ORDER OF SHARPS recap

The Order of Sharps are always in the following order: F# C# G# D# A# E# B#.



To recall the Order of Sharps use this phrase: **F**REDDIE **C**ATCHES **G**ISELLE **D**ANCING **A**ND **E**ND S **B**OOGIE

TIP: The name of the Major Sharp KEY is always a half step above the **last sharp** in the key signature.

Key	Key Signature	
G	F#	A half step above F# is G.
D	F# C#	A half step above C# is D.
A	F# C# G#	A half step above G# is A.
E	F# C# G# D#	A half step above D# is E.
B	F# C# G# D# A#	A half step above A# is B.
F#	F# C# G# D# A# E#	A half step above E# is F#.
C#	F# C# G# D# A# E# B#	A half step above B# is C#.

Use the Order of Sharps to identify the key/scale

Example: What is the key signature of a given key
ie. A major?

1. Find a diatonic half step below A. This is G#.
2. Say the Order of Sharps to the G#: "Freddie Catches Giselle"
3. The 3#'s are F# C# G#.
4. The key or scale of A major has 3 sharps: F# C# G#

Example: The key signature is given. What is the key/scale?
ie. say the key signature has 5#'s. To find the key:

1. Say the Order of Sharps up to the 5th sharp:
"Freddie Catches Giselle Dancing And"
2. Take the last sharp in the key signature: A#.
3. The major key is always a half step above the **last sharp** in the key signature. A half step above A# is B.
4. The key or scale is B major.