

LESSON 19:

REVIEW OF KEY SIGNATURES WITH UP TO 3 FLATS

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Here again are the key signatures you've learned that have flats. I've included C major (no flats) as well.



C major



F major



B flat major



E flat major

You learned earlier when studying key signatures that have sharps, that there is a logical sequence for the sharps: F sharp, then C, sharp and then G sharp. Now you can see that the same is true for the flats:

- F major has B flat
- B flat major adds the E flat to the key signature
- E flat major adds the A flat



B flat



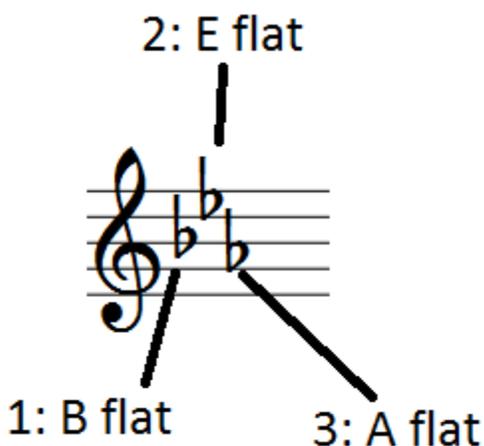
E flat



A flat

The order in which the flats are added: B E A.

And notice that the key signature of E flat major has the flats shown in that same order: B then E then A.



The sequence of flats in the E flat major key signature: B E A.

The ordering of the flats is like a logical progression. Like climbing out of bed in the morning, cooking your breakfast, and then eating it.

When a musician discusses the key signature of E flat major, she says it has 3 flats, 'B E and A'. She doesn't say 'E A and B'. That would be the wrong order.

Getting more familiar with the key signatures that have flats

You've learned three more keys, these ones having flats in the key signature. So let's do another consolidation of your skills, like we did with the keys with sharps. We'll include C major (no sharps or flats) as well.

As before, the aim is to get you to the point where you *know* these keys as a result of experiencing them directly for yourself.

Practical

Build Your Skill

These are exercises to increase your familiarity with the scales and the key signature for each scale.

Exercise 1:

1. Say the formula for the major scale.
 - a. If you've forgotten the formula, you can work it out by playing the white notes from middle C to upper C (the C major scale). Say 'Start' when you play middle C, and then call out the sequence of intervals: '1' for each whole tone (black note between the white notes) and $\frac{1}{2}$ for each half tone (no black note).
2. Play an E flat major scale by applying the formula.
 - a. Observe what flats it has.
 - b. Say the result, calling out the number of sharps and their names. Make sure you give them in the logical sequence I described at the start of the lesson. We want the logical sequence, not the sequence of occurrence in the scale.
 - c. For E flat major, you say 'E flat major: 3 flats, B E and A'.
3. Play a B flat major scale by applying the formula.
 - a. Observe what flats it has. **Reminder:** There's a B flat at the start of the scale and a B flat at the end, but you only count it once.
 - b. Say the result like this: 'B flat major: 2 flats, B and E'.
4. Play an F major scale by applying the formula.
 - a. Observe what flats it has.
 - b. Say the result, calling out the number of flats and their names.
5. Play a C major scale by applying the formula.
 - a. Observe what flats it has.

- b. Say the result, calling out the number of flats and their names.
6. Play a B flat major scale by applying the formula.
 - a. Observe what flats it has.
 - b. Say the result, calling out the number of flats and their names.
7. Repeat as needed until you become familiar with these scales and how many flats each one has.

Exercise 2: – Quiz

1. What flats does E flat major have?
 - a. Call out the answer like this: 'E flat major: 3 flats, B E and A'.
 - b. If you don't know or you're not certain, play an E flat major scale by applying the formula and observe what flats it has. You may also want to review the earlier lessons that introduce the keys.
2. What flats does C major have?
 - a. If you don't know or you're not certain, play a C major scale by applying the formula and observe what flats it has.
3. What flats does F major have?
 - a. If you don't know or you're not certain, play an F major scale by applying the formula and observe what flats it has.
4. What flats does B flat major have?
 - a. If you don't know or you're not certain, play a B flat major scale by applying the formula and observe what flats it has.
5. What flats does F major have?
6. What flats does C major have?
7. What flats does E flat major have?
8. What flats does B flat major have?
9. What flats does C major have?
10. What flats does B flat major have?

11. What flats does F major have?
12. What flats does E flat major have?
13. Repeat the above as needed until you can answer the questions easily and rapidly.

Exercise 3: – Quiz

1. What key is this?



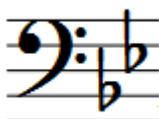
- a. If you don't know or you're not certain, do the previous exercise again or review earlier lessons. You may also want to review the earlier lessons that introduce the keys.
- b. Play the scale that has that key signature.

2. What key is this?



- a. If you don't know or you're not certain, do the previous exercise again or review earlier lessons.
- b. Play the scale that has that key signature.

3. What key is this?



- a. If you don't know or you're not certain, do the previous exercise again or review earlier lessons.
- b. Play the scale that has that key signature.

4. What key is this?



- a. If you don't know or you're not certain, do the previous exercise again or review earlier lessons.
- b. Play the scale that has that key signature.

5. What key is this?



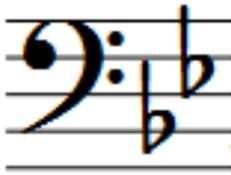
- a. If you don't know or you're not certain, do the previous exercise again or review earlier lessons.
- b. Play the scale that has that key signature.

6. What key is this?



- a. If you don't know or you're not certain, do the previous exercise again or review earlier lessons.
- b. Play the scale that has that key signature.

7. What key is this?



- a. If you don't know or you're not certain, do the previous exercise again or review earlier lessons.
- b. Play the scale that has that key signature.

8. What key is this?



- a. If you don't know or you're not certain, do the previous exercise again or review earlier lessons.
- b. Play the scale that has that key signature.

9. Repeat this exercise as needed until you can answer the questions accurately and easily.

Exercise 4: – Abide with Me

1. Say the name of the clef in the music below. (This one is the treble clef.)
2. Say the name of the key signature. (This one is B flat major.)
3. Say the name of the time signature. (This one is 4/4.)
4. Play it.



Exercise 5: – Baa Baa Black Sheep

1. Say the name of the clef in the music below.
2. Say the name of the key signature.
3. Say the name of the time signature.
4. Play it.



Exercise 6: – Loch Lomond

1. Say the name of the clef in the music below.
2. Say the name of the key signature.
3. Say the name of the time signature.
4. Play it.



Exercise 7: – On Top of Old Smokey

1. Say the name of the clef in the music below.
2. Say the name of the key signature.
3. Say the name of the time signature.

