

Key Signatures

The key signature at the beginning of a piece of music tells us what notes or chords should be in that piece of music. For Example, if a song is in the key of C, there should also be the other notes of the scale used (D, E, F, G, A and B.) These notes can be in any order, or some might not be used at all.

If there is a note in the song that is not part of the key signature, it is called an accidental.

The key signature is shown at the beginning of a piece of music. It is shown by how many sharps # or flats b are in the scale.

Symbol	Key	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
none	C (or Am)	C	D	E	F	G	A	B

The table above shows the scale for the key of C. The notes are the notes of the C major scale. A song in the key of C will use some or all of the notes of the scale, or use the corresponding chords, (ie, C chord, G chord etc.)

Relative minors

The key of C uses exactly the same notes as the key of A minor. Therefore, C major and A minor use the same notes, and are shown by the key signature, so if there are no sharps or flats, then it is either C major or A minor. The relative minor is the VI note in the scale.

The Musical Keys

SYMBOL	KEY	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
NONE	C (OR Am)	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
#	G (OR Em)	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#
##	D (OR Bm)	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#
###	A (OR F#m)	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#
####	E (OR C#M)	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#
#####	B (OR G#m)	B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#
##### OR bbbbbb	F# (OR D#m)	F#	G#	A#	B	C#	D#	E#
bbbbb	Db (or Bbm)	Db	Eb	F	Gb	Ab	Bb	C
bbbb	Ab (or Fm)	Ab	Bb	C	Db	Eb	F	G
bbb	Eb (or Cm)	Eb	F	G	Ab	Bb	C	D
bb	Bb (or Gm)	Bb	C	D	Eb	F	G	A
b	F (or Dm)	F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E