

## “How to Play Interval Scales” Instructional Guide

# The Circle of Fifths Complete Step by Step User Guide

The circle of 5ths is a geometrical representation of the 12 different pitches in music.



Start on any note and count to 12. Afterwards you'll arrive at the same note in a different register.

Fourths and fifths are related intervals. If you move up a fifth, it's the same as moving down a fourth.

As you progress counter-clockwise around the circle, you add flats.

You can remember the order of letters in the circle by creating acronyms such as:  
CATS GO DOWN ALLEYS EATING BREAD for clock-wise and CADDYS FIND BEADs on GOLF carts for the counter-clockwise order.

The most sharps or flats you can have in any one key is 7. Be aware that not all sharps & flats land on black keys once you go beyond a certain number of them.

**D** The first 7 letters of the alphabet represent the notes in a key of music. Some have sharps or flats beside them.

**A** A key of music consists of 7 different notes. Two notes together on the circle represent the first and the fifth of them.

**E** As you progress clockwise around the circle, you add sharps.

At the bottom of the circle, you have keys with sharps and flats that overlap one another. They have the same notes but different names.

