



Beginner Music Theory Cheat Sheet

Welcome to Your Quick-Start Guide!

Music theory might sound complicated, but it doesn't have to be. This cheat sheet keeps it simple so you can spend more time playing and less time scratching your head.

What's a Key?

A "key" is like the home base of a song. It tells you what notes and chords will sound good together.

- **Example:** A song in the key of C major uses the notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B.
- **Tip:** Think of a key as your musical comfort zone!

What Are Chords Made Of?

Chords are groups of notes played together. Most basic chords are made of three notes:

- **Root:** The main note (like C in a C major chord).
- **Third:** Gives the chord its happy (major) or sad (minor) feel.
- **Fifth:** Adds strength and fullness to the sound.

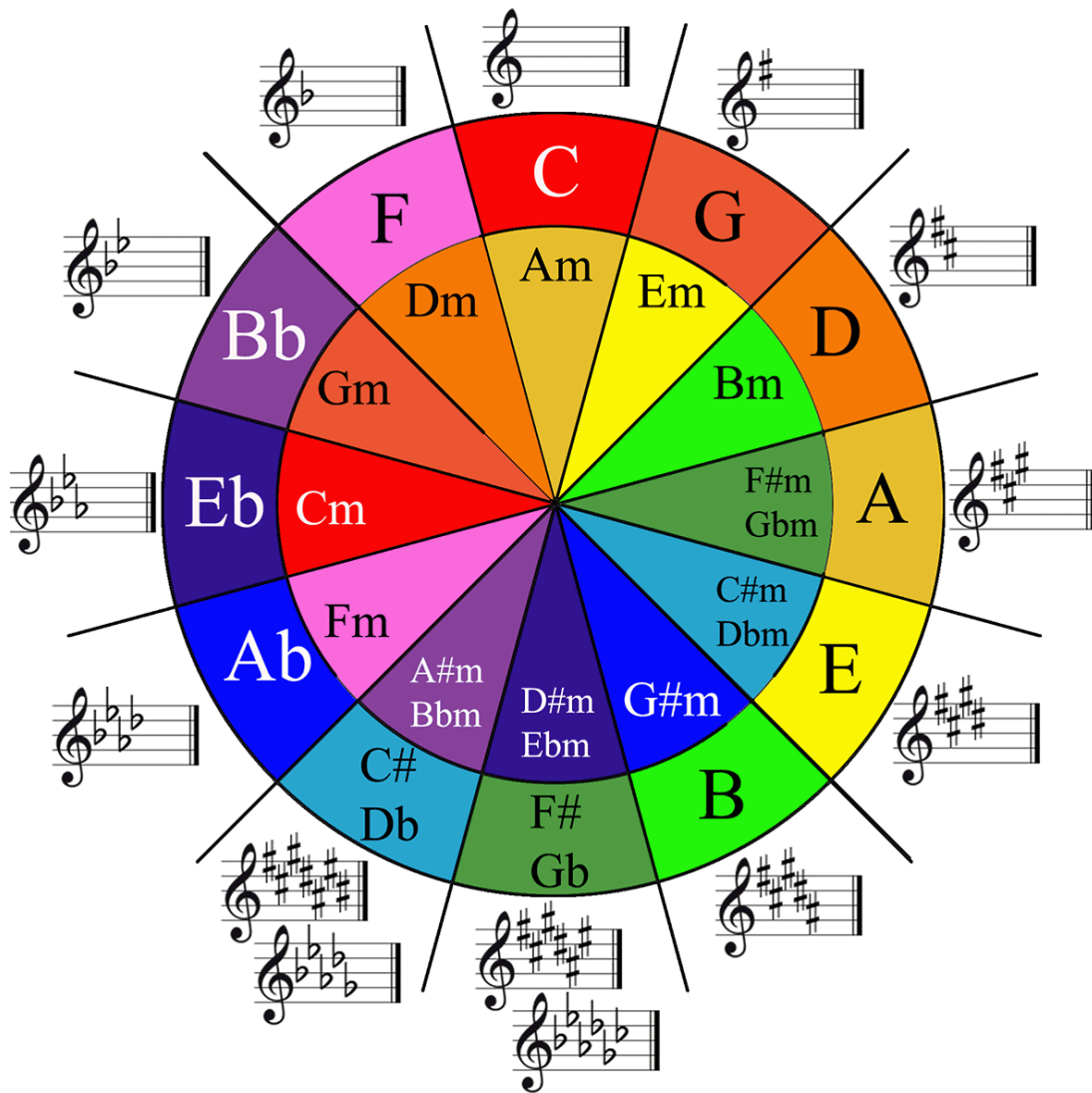
Example: C Major = C (root), E (third), G (fifth)

The Circle of Fifths (Super Simplified)

The Circle of Fifths helps you understand how keys and chords relate to each other.

- Start at **C**. Move clockwise: G, D, A, E, B...
- Each step adds one sharp (#) to the key.
- Move counterclockwise: F, Bb, Eb...
- Each step adds one flat (b) to the key.

Pro Tip: Use the Circle to find easy chord progressions!



Learn as You Go Tips

- **Don't memorize everything at once.** Learn one concept at a time as you encounter it.
- **Apply theory to songs you love.** Recognize patterns and chords.
- **Use your ears!** Theory is a guide, but your ears are the final judge.
- **Keep it playful.** Music theory is here to help you, not to stress you out.

Next Steps

Ready to take your understanding further? Check out our beginner-friendly lessons and resources at GuitarLessons.org

Enjoy the journey, and keep making music!