

THE SHARP KEYS

8. STORY

The image shows a musical exercise on a treble clef staff in C major. The melody consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. This is followed by a key signature change to G major (one sharp), with notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. A second key signature change to D major (two sharps) follows, with notes: D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6. The tablature below the staff is organized into three measures corresponding to these key signatures. The first measure (C major) has fret numbers 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15. The second measure (G major) has fret numbers 5, 7, 4, 5, 7, 5, 7, 8. The third measure (D major) has fret numbers 5, 7, 9, 5, 7, 9, 6, 7.

THE SHARP KEYS

Learning the different Key centers will help us understand how chords are constructed and chord progressions for songs are created. The major scale formula and the order of chords go hand in hand with this information.

We can construct the sharp(#) keys in this exercise moving up in intervals of a 5th. Starting in the key of C we go up a 5th to the key of G. Build this and each successive key using the major scale formula.

This is an exercise to write out first and learn to play as further study. Use the above tab as a starting point for playing.

Most of use arrive at a point asking "Is it F# sharp or is it Gb? The answer is, Always use the next letter. Never use the same letter twice.

The 5th above G will be the key of... The 5th of that next key is ... Continue with these steps until you reach the key of C# where all 7 notes will be sharped.

C D E F G A B C
G A B C D E F# G