

Key Signature Tricks of the Trade

1. Memorize the order of the sharps and flats

- SHARPS: **FCGDAEB** (Fat Cats Get Drunk At Eddie's Bar)

- They must be written in this order and octave

- FLATS: **BEADGCF** ("BEAD" Greatest Common Factor)

- The order of the flats are the order of the sharps in reverse
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- They must be written in this order and octave

- Sing these lyrics to the chorus of Jingle Bells to help you...
"BEA DGC F and there's your flats,
If you say this in reverse, the sharps will be just that!"

1. SHARPS (okay here is the trick...)

- To write in the key signature from a given key.
 (ex: what is the key signature for D Major?)

A. Write the note on the staff.

B. Go one half step down from that note, this is your secondary note*

C. Using the order of sharps, all of the notes starting from F up to your secondary note are in the key you are looking for.

D. Write the sharps on the right using the correct order and octave (see above)

Ex: D Major

A.

B.

C. & D.

- To look at a sharp key signature and find out what key you are in

(Ex. What major key is this?)

A. Look at the very last sharp in the key signature (the furthest left one)

B. Remember your secondary note*... This is it. Go one half step up from this.

C. There is your major key.