

The Circle of Fifths

The circle of fifths gets its name from the fact that as you go from one section of the circle to the next, you are going up or down by an interval of a perfect fifth. If you go up a perfect fifth (clockwise in the circle), you get the key that has one more sharp or one fewer flat; if you go down a perfect fifth (counterclockwise), you get the key that has one more flat or one fewer sharp.

