









# FingerKeys


For Violin



A  
key signature  
and  
fingering  
reference guide

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# Introduction

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This book was developed because it was something I would use. As a beginner, I wanted to play any piece I could find, but every time I saw something in a key besides D major, I was stuck. Yes, I confuse easily. If you've ever found yourself in the same boat, we are kindred spirits.

## **How to use FingerKeys**

To use this guide, just match the key signature of the piece with a signature in the Contents, then turn to the indicated page. The fingering you'll use for the piece is laid out for you there.

Each fingering guide shows positions 1-3 for the G and D strings, and positions 1-5 for the A and E strings. In the F# and C# Major keys, the F and C notes were renamed E# and B# to match the key signature. In the Gb and Cb Major keys, the B and E notes were renamed Cb and Fb for the same reason.

## Determining keys

Although FingerKeys shows you the key signature and key names on each page, there are other ways to determine the key of any piece of music you see.

For a key signature using sharps, the key is  $\frac{1}{2}$  step higher than the last sharp in the signature. For example, in the key signature below, the right-most sharp is a D, so you know the key is E major (or C# minor).



For a key signature using flats, the key is the second from the far right in the signature. For example, in the key signature below, the second flat from the far right is G, so you know the key is G $\flat$  major (or E $\flat$  minor).



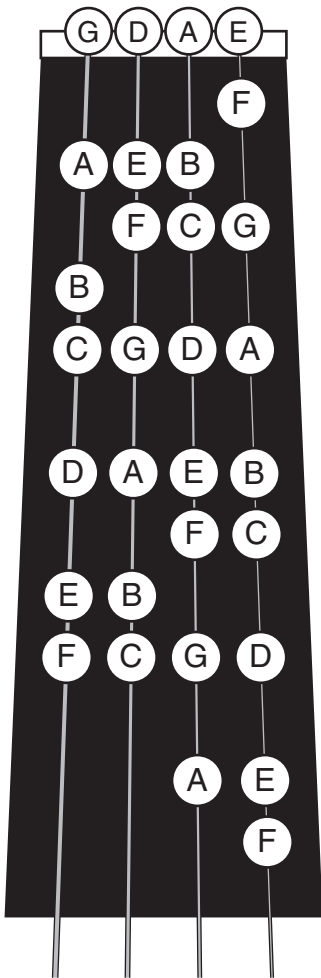
To find the name of a minor key, determine the major key that uses the given key signature, then count down three half steps.

Another trick is to listen for the last melody note of the music. The last melody note is usually the key of the piece.

Send feedback to [msawye01@usd.edu](mailto:msawye01@usd.edu).

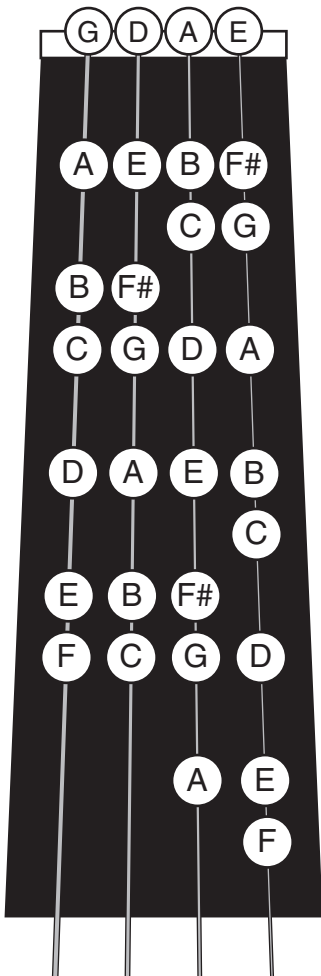
# C major

A minor



# G major

E minor



# D major

B minor

