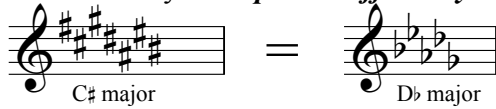


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3.3 Types of Key Relationships

The following five types of key relationships are in order from closest relation to weakest relation.

1. Enharmonic Keys

Enharmonic keys are *spelled differently* but *sound the same*, just like enharmonic notes.



2. Parallel Keys

Parallel keys share a *tonic*, but have *different key signatures*. One will be minor and one major.



D minor is the *parallel minor* of D major.

3. Relative Keys

Relative keys share a *key signature*, but have different tonics. One will be minor and one major. Remember: Relatives "*look alike*" at a family reunion, and relative keys "*look alike*" in their signatures!



E minor is the *relative minor* of G major.

4. Closely-related Keys

Any key will have 5 closely-related keys. A closely-related key is a key that *differs from a given key by at most one sharp or flat*. There are two easy ways to find closely related keys, as shown below.

Given key:
D major, 2 #s

One less sharp: Same key sig: One more sharp:

METHOD 1:
Add and subtract one sharp/flat, and take the relative keys (minor/major)

OR

METHOD 2:
Take all the *major* and *minor* triads in the given key (only) as tonic chords for other keys.

X
(C# diminished is not a key!)

5. Foreign Keys (or Distantly-related Keys)

A foreign key is any key that is *not* enharmonic, parallel, relative, or closely-related. Below is one of many possible examples.



E minor is the *foreign* to Bb major.