



Here's the magic Circle of CW Fifths (or Fourths in the CCW direction) that contains just about everything we need to know about the major keys, including their relative minor keys, key signatures, scales, and triad chords. Here's how it works: If you select any major key on the hot pink circle, its Tonic triad I is the center (of three adjacent keys), its Subdominant chord IV is its CCW neighbor, and its Dominant chord V is its CW neighbor. On the orange circle, the center is its relative minor and Submediant chord vii^b, the CCW neighbor is the Subtonic chord ii^m, and its CW neighbor is the Mediant chord iii^m. On the middle circle are the three notes that make up the I triad. For instance, take the key of A, whose neighbors are D in the CCW direction and E in the CW direction. A major is the I triad (A-C#-E), D is the IV triad, E is the V triad, F# is the relative minor and root note of the vii^b chord, B minor is the ii^m chord, and C# minor is the iii^m chord. It's to our advantage to put this circle to memory.