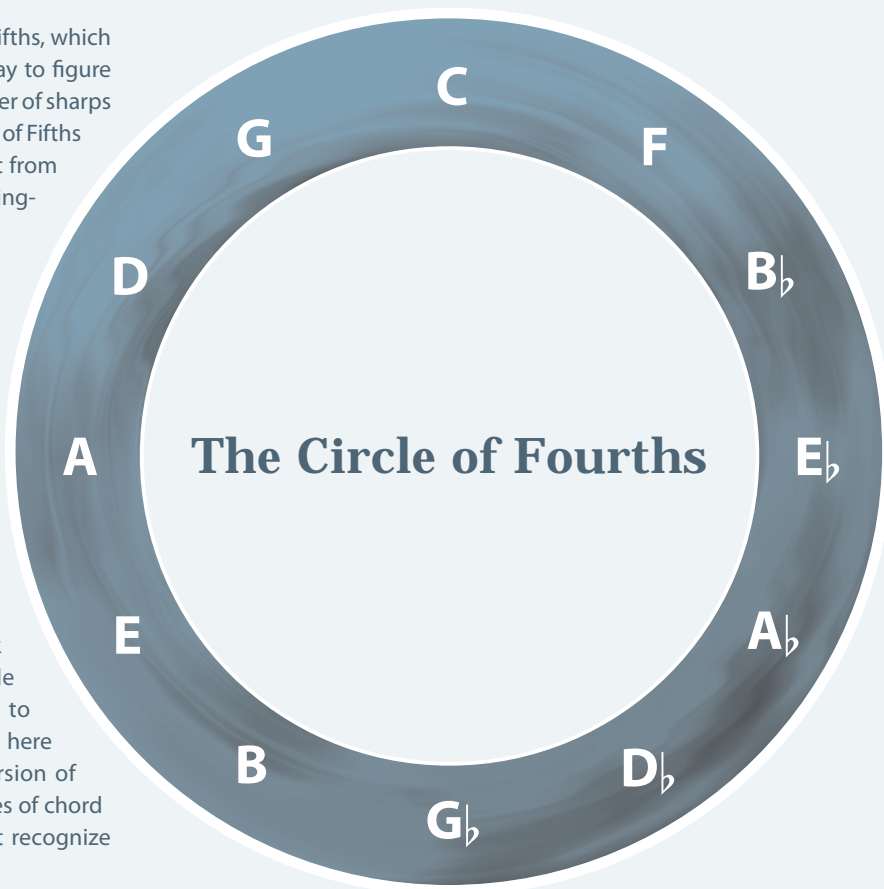


Go Fourth and Play

■ You may have heard of the Circle of Fifths, which musicians sometimes memorize as a way to figure out the key of a song based on the number of sharps or flats encountered in a score. The Circle of Fifths can be downloaded as a PDF document from the *Making Music* website, at www.making-musicmag.com/forte/clip.

The magic of the Circle of Fifths becomes clear once you look at it in a mirror—then it becomes the Circle of Fourths! Just as each note going clockwise with the Circle of Fifths is a perfect fifth (or seven semitones) apart, so going counterclockwise yields notes that are a perfect fourth (or five semitones) apart.

Chords that are a perfect fourth apart are used often in Western popular music, so if you play blues, rock, country, or folk music, it's worth memorizing the Circle of Fourths. It can be a little confusing to memorize fifths backward, however, so here *Making Music* presents a simplified version of the Circle of Fourths, and some examples of chord progressions in fourths that you might recognize from classic songs.



Chord Progressions Based on the Circle of Fourths

1) E-A-D-G-C

Heard on "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes" by Bobby Vee as chord progression E maj7—A maj7—D maj7—G maj7—C maj6

Heard on "The Long and Winding Road" by The Beatles as chord progression E min—A min—D min7—G maj7—C maj

2) D-G-C-F-Bb

Heard on "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" by Elton John as chord progression D min—G maj—C maj—F maj—Bb maj7—G maj7—C maj

Heard on "Lady Jane" by The Rolling Stones as chord progression D maj7—G min—C maj7—F maj

3) C-F-Bb-Eb-Ab

Heard on "Light My Fire" by The Doors as chord progression F maj—Bb maj—Eb maj—Ab maj

Heard on "Lovely Rita" by The Beatles as chord progression C maj—F maj—Bb maj—Eb maj

