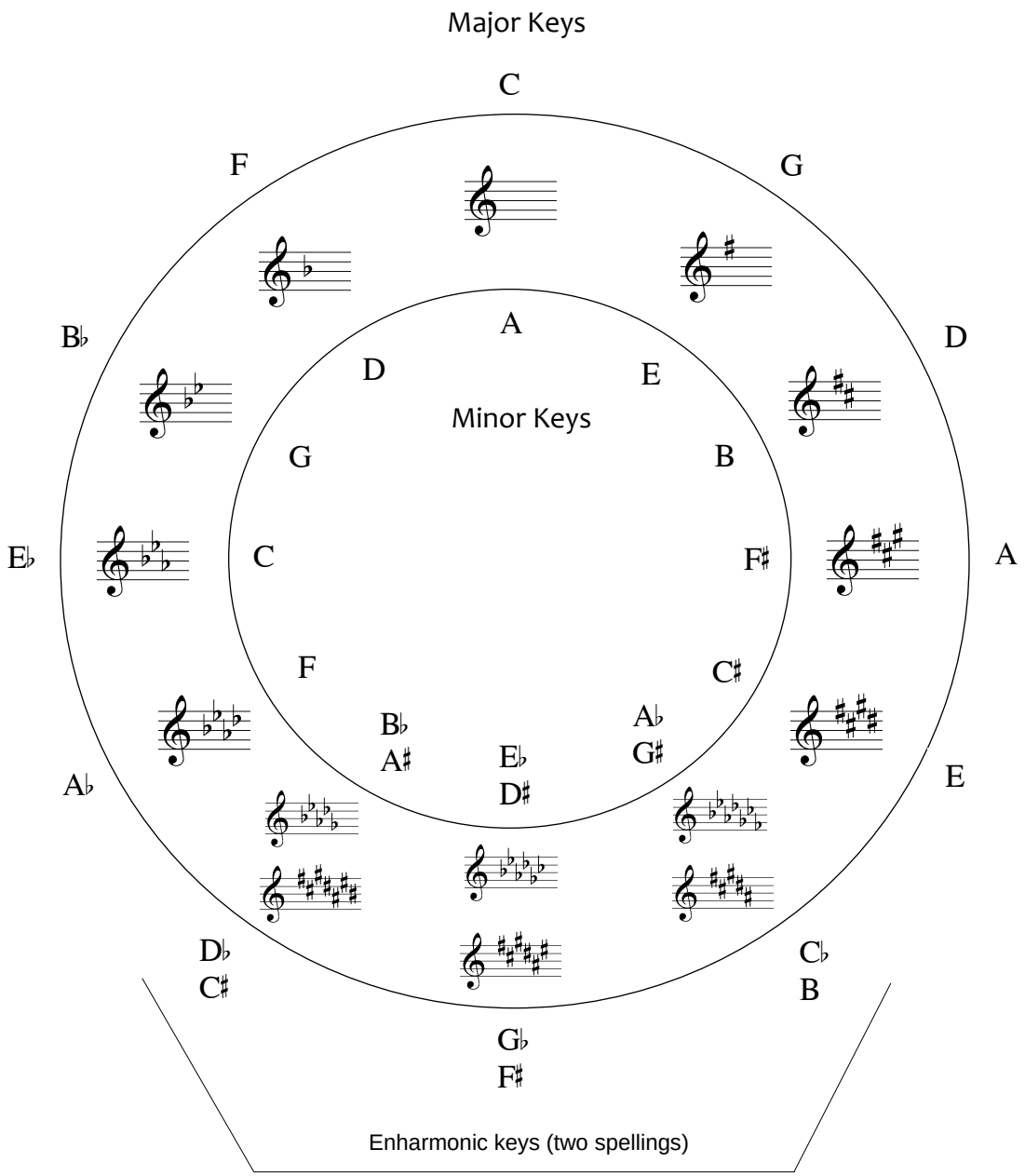
Circle of Fifths

The circle of fifths can help you memorize key signatures, and makes certain key relationships visually apparent. For example, relative keys are adjacent inside and outside the circle. Closely related keys are adjacent to the left and right. Keys with tonics a tritone apart (a very distant tonal relationship) are directly across from one another on opposite sides of the circle.

The circle of fifths is useful for visualizing and exploring patterns of key relationships, but you should not use it to avoid memorizing important facts like key signatures.