

# What Is An Enharmonic Equivalent: A Complete Guide

The term enharmonic if you haven't heard it before, can be quite confusing. You'll often get asked about it in a grade five music theory exam so it's definitely worth learning for some easy marks.

In this post we're going to be looking at some examples of what enharmonic equivalents are and how they're used in reading and writing music.

- What Does Enharmonic Mean?
- Types of Enharmonic Equivalents
  - Enharmonic Equivalent Notes
  - Enharmonic Equivalent Scales
  - Enharmonic Equivalent Key and Chords
  - Enharmonic Equivalent Intervals
- Wrapping up Enharmonic Equivalents

## What Does Enharmonic Mean?

Although it sounds quite complicated, enharmonic essentially is an 'alternate name for the same thing'.

For example, you could have a note like C# but you could also call this note Db.

They are the same note but have different names and so are enharmonic equivalents.

## Types of Enharmonic Equivalents

There are actually lots of different types of enharmonic equivalents.

You can have enharmonic equivalent:

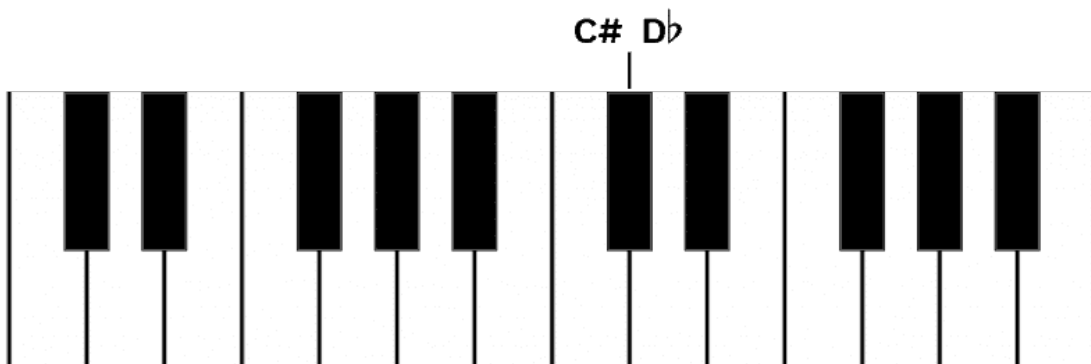
- Notes
- Scales
- Chords
- Keys
- Intervals

We'll go into some examples now to explain how they work.

### Enharmonic Equivalent Notes

Notes can have more than one name.

For example, this note here could be either C sharp (C#) or D flat (Db) depending on how you look at it.



You could also call it B double sharp, all are correct but it depends on what context you're playing the note.

When you have notes like this that are the same but with different names they are called enharmonic equivalents.

Whether you'd call it D flat, C sharp or B double sharp depends on what key you're in.

For example, if we were in the key of Ab then we'd call this note Db as Ab has four flats in its key signature: Bb, Eb, Ab and Db.

But if we were in the key of E major then it would be C# as E major has four sharps in its key signature: F#, C#, G# and D#.

If we were in the key of C# major then it would be B double sharp as C# major has seven sharps in its key signature: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#, and B#

### Enharmonic Equivalent Scales

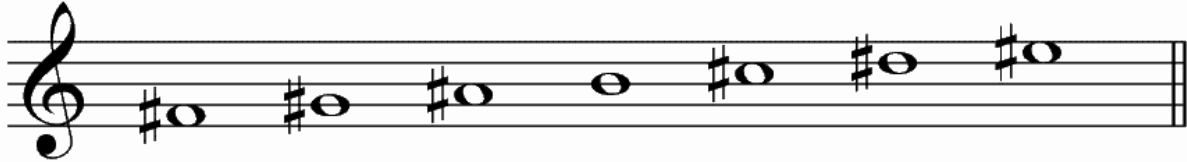
As well as enharmonic equivalent notes you can have enharmonic equivalent scales and they work in exactly the same way.

For example, if we take the scale Gb major which has the notes: Gb – Ab – Bb – Cb – Db – Eb – F



Gb major scale

The enharmonic equivalent scale would be F# major which has the same notes but spelt differently: F# – G# – A# – B – C# – D# – E#



F# major scale

### Enharmonic Equivalent Key and Chords

An enharmonic equivalent key are those that have the same pitches but with different names.

It works in the same way as scales and notes for example C# major and Db major are enharmonic equivalent keys as the underlying pitches are the same but C# major uses sharps and Db major uses flats.

You might wonder why you might use one key over the other?

The main reason is that some keys have fewer flats or sharps than others and can be a lot easier to read.

For instance, in the case of C# and Db major, most people would prefer to play in Db major as it only has five flats as opposed to C# major which has seven sharps.

Or if you had the choice of playing in Cb major (which has seven flats) or B major (which has five sharps) which would you choose?

### Enharmonic Equivalent Intervals

Enharmonic equivalent intervals are slightly different from notes, scales and keys but follow the same principle.

An enharmonic interval is two notes that are the same distance apart but spelt differently.

For example let's take the two notes C and E which is a major 3rd.

But, Fb is an enharmonic equivalent of E natural so we could also write this interval as C to Fb which although is the same amount of semitones apart is now described as a diminished 4th instead of a major 3rd.

### Wrapping up Enharmonic Equivalents

I hope that helps make a bit more sense of enharmonic equivalents.

It can seem a bit confusing and overwhelming at first, but once you get the hang of seeing notes, scales, keys and intervals as being more than one thing it should start to sink in.

If you have any questions that I haven't covered in this post just comment below.

## What is the Enharmonic equivalent of CB? - TimesMojo

It works in the same way as scales and notes for example C# major and Db major are enharmonic equivalent keys as the underlying pitches are the same but C# major uses sharps and Db major uses flats.

### What is the enharmonic of this note?

When two notes sound the same but are written as two different notes on the staff, the written notes are said to be enharmonic. Notes on the white keys of the piano can be written enharmonically as well (C = B, E = F, D = C?, etc.).

### What are the 9 Enharmonics?

They are:

- C# is the same as Db.

- D# is the same as Eb.
- F# is the same as Gb.
- G# is the same as Ab.
- A# is the same as Bb.
- B# is the same as C.
- Fb is the same as E.
- E# is the same as F.

### What is the enharmonic equivalent of D?

C double-sharp, E double-flat and D are enharmonic equivalent or enharmonic notes. They share the same pitch and sound exactly the same when played on a piano, but they are written differently on the staff.

### What is the Enharmonic name for a#?

Its key signature has seven sharps, while the direct enharmonic equivalent, B-flat minor, has five flats.

### What note is Enharmonic to F sharp?

F sharp and G flat are “enharmonic equivalents”. Enharmonic equivalents are often used when we change key within a piece.

### What does the key of C have in it?

C major (or the key of C) is a major scale based on C, consisting of the pitches C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. C major is one of the most common key signatures used in music. Its key signature has no flats and no sharps. ... On the piano, the C major scale can be played by playing only the white keys starting on C.

### Why do Enharmonic keys exist?

Enharmonic equivalents can also be used to improve the readability of a line of music. For example, a sequence of notes is more easily read as “ascending” or “descending” if the noteheads are on different positions on the staff. Doing so may also reduce the number of accidentals that must be used.

### Which keys are Enharmonic?

Enharmonic, in the system of equal temperament tuning used on keyboard instruments, two tones that sound the same but are notated (spelled) differently. Pitches such as F# and G b are said to be enharmonic equivalents; both are sounded with the same key on a keyboard instrument.

### What is the enharmonic name for D#?

Its relative major is F-sharp major (or enharmonically G-flat major), and its parallel major is D-sharp major, usually replaced by E-flat major, since D-sharp major’s two double-sharps make it impractical to use. Its enharmonic equivalent, E-flat minor, contains the same number of flats.

### What are enharmonic intervals?

Every interval may be written two different ways which sound exactly alike. This property is called enharmonicity; the written intervals are said to be enharmonic. For example, a diminished fourth (d4) sounds exactly the same as a major third (M3), although they are different in both size and quality.

### Is a-flat same as G sharp?

Today’s chord is G-sharp, which is more commonly known by its enharmonic equivalent, A-flat. ... Practically speaking, we’d rather use G-sharp’s enharmonic equivalent, A-flat, which only has four flats. Same series of notes, but a different name, notation, and key signature.

### Is a-flat major the same as G sharp?

G-Sharp Major’s Alter-Ego

For the sake of efficient notation, we can express the same exact scale with only four accidentals by using the key of A-flat major. This key is tonally identical, or “enharmonically equivalent,” to G sharp.

### What note is F#?

F# is a black key on the piano. Another name for F# is Gb, which has the same note pitch / sound, which means that the two note names are enharmonic to each other. It is called sharp because it is 1 half-tone(s) / semitone(s) up from the white note after which it is named – note F. The next note up from F# is G.

### What does the word Enharmonic mean in music?

: of, relating to, or being notes that are written differently (such as A flat and G sharp) but sound the same in the tempered scale.

### What is the same as a double sharp?

The effect of the double sharp symbol raises the pitch of the indicated note by two semitones (two half steps). The resultant pitch would sound the same as the pitch “C sharp”.

### What does 2 flats mean?

An accidental sign consisting of two flat symbols ( b b ) that lower a note by two half steps (two semitones). The double flat symbol alters the pitch of the note to which it is attached as well as any subsequent occurrence of the same note (identical line or space) in the same measure.

## What is the symbol for a double sharp?

The double sharp symbol— $\sharp\sharp$ —raises a pitch two half steps, or a whole step. The double flat symbol— $\flat\flat$ —lowers a pitch two half steps, or a whole step. The natural symbol— $\natural$ —cancels out any other accidentals that may have occurred earlier in a measure or in Major Key Signatures or Minor Key Signatures.

## basicmusictheory.com: C-flat note (Cb)

The Solution below shows the position of note C-flat on the piano, treble clef and bass clef.

The Lesson steps then describe the note characteristics and relationship with the notes around it, and also lists which scales the note is in.

For a quick summary of this topic, have a look at Note name.

Change NoteKeyCC#DbDD#EbEE#FbFF#GbGG#AbAA#BbBB#[Cb]

### Solution

Solution: [1] Lesson steps: 1 2 3 Home Top ^

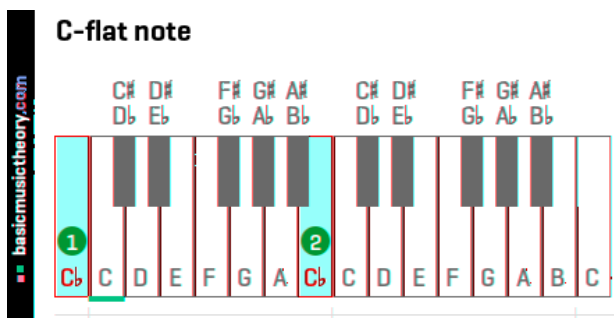
#### 1. C-flat note

This step shows note C-flat on two octaves, on the piano, treble clef and bass clef.

Cb is a white key on the piano.

Another name for Cb is B, which has the same note pitch / sound, which means that the two note names are enharmonic to each other.

It is called flat because it is 1 half-tone(s) / semitone(s) down from the white note after which is named - note C.

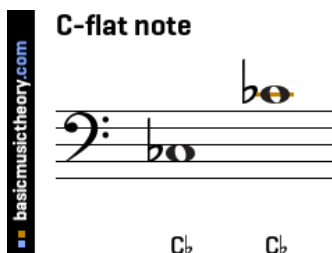
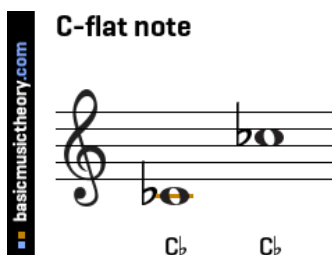


Middle C (midi note 60) is shown with an orange line under the 2nd note on the piano diagram.

These note names are shown below on the treble clef followed by the bass clef.

On the treble clef, Middle C is shown with an orange ledger line below the main 5 staff lines.

On the bass clef, Middle C is shown with an orange ledger line above the main 5 staff lines.



Audio downloads  Bass Clef: Midi MP3  Treble Clef: Midi MP3

### Lesson steps

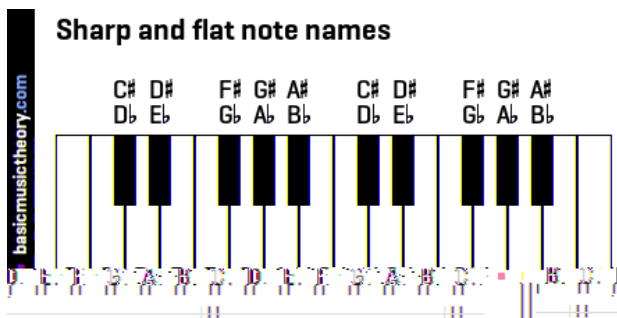
Solution: 1 Lesson steps: [1] 2 3 Home Top ^

## 1. Piano key note names

This step shows the white and black note names on a piano keyboard so that the note names are familiar for later steps, and to show that the note names start repeating themselves after 12 notes.

The white keys are named using the alphabetic letters A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, which is a pattern that repeats up the piano keyboard.

Every white or black key could have a flat(b) or sharp(#) accidental name, depending on how that note is used. In a later step, if sharp or flat notes are used, the exact accidental names will be chosen.



The audio files below play every note shown on the piano above, so middle C (marked with an orange line at the bottom) is the 2nd note heard.

Audio downloads Bass Clef: Midi MP3 Treble Clef: Midi MP3

Solution: 1 Lesson steps: 1 [2] 3 Home Top ^

## 2. C-flat note

This step shows note C-flat in two different positions on the piano, and describes the note characteristics.

Cb is a white key on the piano.

Another name for Cb is B, which has the same note pitch / sound, which means that the two note names are enharmonic to each other.

It is called flat because it is 1 half-tone(s) / semitone(s) down from the white note after which is named - note C.

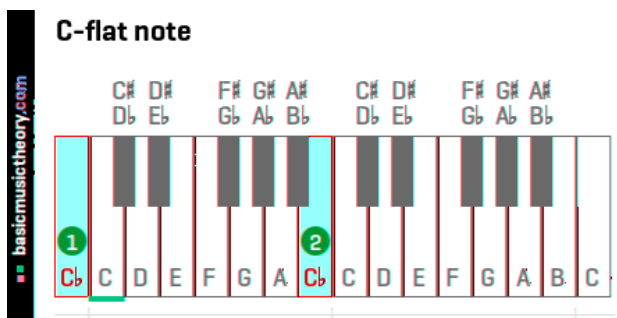
The next note up from Cb is C.

Or put another way, C is 1 half-tone / semitone higher than Cb.

There are no black keys between Cb and C.

The next note down from Cb is Bb / A#.

Or put another way, Bb / A# is 1 half-tone / semitone lower than Cb.



Audio downloads Bass Clef: Midi MP3 Treble Clef: Midi MP3

Solution: 1 Lesson steps: 1 2 [3] Home Top ^

## 3. Note C-flat is found in which scales ?

This step shows which scales note C-flat occurs in, including the scale degree (ie. position / scale note number) of that scale.

Note C-flat is found in which scales ?  
C-flat is the leading tone of Dbb major scale (seventh note)  
C-flat is the submediant of Ebb major scale (sixth note)  
C-flat is the dominant of Fb major scale (fifth note)  
C-flat is the subdominant of Gb major scale (fourth note)  
C-flat is the mediant of Abb major scale (third note)  
C-flat is the supertonic of Bbb major scale (second note)  
C-flat is the tonic of Cb major scale (first note)  
C-flat is the subtonic of Db natural minor scale (seventh note)  
C-flat is the submediant of Eb natural minor scale (sixth note)  
C-flat is the dominant of Fb natural minor scale (fifth note)  
C-flat is the subdominant of Gb natural minor scale (fourth note)  
C-flat is the mediant of Ab natural minor scale (third note)  
C-flat is the supertonic of Bbb natural minor scale (second note)  
C-flat is the tonic of Cb natural minor scale (first note)  
C-flat is the leading tone of Dbb harmonic minor scale (seventh note)  
C-flat is the submediant of Eb harmonic minor scale (sixth note)  
C-flat is the dominant of Fb harmonic minor scale (fifth note)  
C-flat is the subdominant of Gb harmonic minor scale (fourth note)  
C-flat is the mediant of Ab harmonic minor scale (third note)  
C-flat is the supertonic of Bbb harmonic minor scale (second note)  
C-flat is the tonic of Cb harmonic minor scale (first note)  
C-flat is the leading tone of Dbb melodic minor scale (seventh note)  
C-flat is the submediant of Ebb melodic minor scale (sixth note)  
C-flat is the dominant of Fb melodic minor scale (fifth note)  
C-flat is the

subdominant of Gb melodic minor scale (fourth note) C-flat is the mediant of Ab melodic minor scale (third note) C-flat is the supertonic of Bbb melodic minor scale (second note) C-flat is the tonic of Cb melodic minor scale (first note) C-flat is the first note of Cb blues scale C-flat is the first note of Cb major pentatonic scale C-flat is the first note of Cb minor pentatonic scale

Change Note Key CC#DbDD#EbEE#FbFF#GbGG#AbAA#BbBB#[Cb] Music theory links in the key of C-flat Related links Note C-flat, Cb major scale, Cb relative minor Minor scales Cb natural minor scale, Cb harmonic minor scale, Cb melodic minor scale More scales Cb major scale, Cb major pentatonic scale, Cb minor pentatonic scale, Cb blues scale Intervals Cb-1st, Cb-2nd, Cb-3rd, Cb-4th, Cb-5th, Cb-6th, Cb-7th, Cb-8th Circle of 5ths Learn the circle of fifths, Cb major on circle of 5ths Modes Cb ionian, Cb dorian, Cb phrygian, Cb lydian, Cb mixolydian, Cb aeolian, Cb locrian Triad chords Cb diminished, Cb minor, Cb major, Cb augmented, Cb suspended 2nd, Cb suspended 4th 6th chords Cb minor 6th, Cb major 6th 7th chords Cb dim 7, Cb half-dim 7, Cb min 7, Cb min-maj 7, Cb dom 7, Cb maj 7, Cb aug 7, Cb aug-maj 7, Cb maj 7 sus2, Cb dom 7 sus4, Cb maj 7 sus4 Scale triad chords Cb major triad chords, Cb minor triad chords, Cb harmonic minor chords, Cb melodic minor chords Scale 7th chords Cb major 7th chords, Cb minor 7th chords, Cb harmonic minor 7th chords, Cb melodic minor 7th chords Triad modes Cb ionian, Cb dorian, Cb phrygian, Cb lydian, Cb mixolydian, Cb aeolian, Cb locrian 7th modes Cb ionian, Cb dorian, Cb phrygian, Cb lydian, Cb mixolydian, Cb aeolian, Cb locrian Cadences Cb major perfect authentic, Cb major imperfect authentic, Cb major plagal, Cb major half, Cb major deceptive

## What is The enharmonic of Cb? - Answers

**The was used to sound the morning and evening watches and was used at military funerals?**

[View results](#)

**In roman culture what was music primarily used for?**

[View results](#)

**What Boethius wrote of or the music of the universe.?**

[View results](#)

**Each of the Greek muses had a specific talent in the arts . which muse is correctly matched with her talent in the list below?**

[View results](#)

**What instrument Is the classification for a solid instrument that produces sound when it is hit scraped or struck.?**

[View results](#)

**What is a scientist who studies music as an aspect of culture?**

[View results](#)