



Major and Minor

Fiddler on the Loose



Music that sounds happy is usually written in a **major** key, whilst music that sounds sad is more often in a **minor** key. Every **major** key has a **minor** key that shares the same key signature.

G major shares its key signature with E minor. So if you see a key signature of 1 sharp (#), the music could be in either key.

A melody (tune) will usually finish on the first note of the key of the piece. So if the music is in G major, you will probably finish on a G (if you are playing the main line).

This piece, **Fiddler on the Loose**, is in E minor. It sounds sad, and the last note is an E. E minor uses a mixture of Finger Patterns 1 and 2.

3 Steps Apart

A major key is always 3 steps above the minor key that shares its key signature.

Start slowly, then speed up

(last time only)
oy!

repeat several times
getting faster & faster

Activities

- 1) **Check** which sections of the music use Finger Pattern 1, and which use Pattern 2.
- 2) **Play** the piece slowly, then repeat it at least 3 or 4 times, getting gradually faster.
- 3) On the final repeat, **accelerate** towards the end then **shout** 'Oy' on the last beat!