Finding The Key Of Any Song
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“MINOR CHORD” TRICK

Because most musicians erroneously pick the 3rd and 5th instead of the true key (a.k.a. – “the 1”), I’ve devised this convenient “minor chord” trick to make sure you’re not falling into this same trap.

How it works: For example, if you think the true key is C, pick the minor chord that puts C on top.

F minor puts C on top.

Ab

So, to make sure C is really the key, you will test Ab and F... the other remaining notes of F minor.

What does this do?

It makes sure you haven’t mistakenly guessed C as the third. If so, since C is the 3rd tone of Ab major, you will find Ab to be the correct answer and it will sound infinitely closer to the song than C. Otherwise, if C is the true answer, Ab will sound far from the key.

In the same way, it makes sure you haven’t accidentally guessed C as the fifth (another common mishap). Since C is the fifth tone of F, it sounds very close... but it is not the key. If F is truly the key, it will sound way better than C and you’ll have the true key. If C is truly the key, it will triumph over both Ab and F (the other notes of the minor chord).

That is my minor chord trick (made up by yours truly!). On the following pages, I’ve listed all the minor chords so you’ll have a convenient chart to refer to.
If you think C is the key, test against the notes of F minor:

If you think C# or Db is the key, test against the notes of F# minor (or Gb minor):

If you think D is the key, test against the notes of G minor:
If you think D# or Eb is the key, test against the notes of G# minor (or Ab minor):

If you think E is the key, test against the notes of A minor:

If you think F is the key, test against the notes of Bb minor:
If you think F# is the key, test against the notes of B minor:

If you think G is the key, test against the notes of C minor:

If you think G# or Ab is the key, test against the notes of C# minor (or Db minor):
If you think A is the key, test against the notes of D minor:

If you think Bb is the key, test against the notes of Eb minor:

If you think B is the key, test against the notes of E minor: