

Non-Traditional Key Signatures in Finale, by Motet (5/11/2017)

The following describes how to create a non-standard key signature in Finale. This is a simplification of a more general but arcane process. This one restricts you to the flats and sharps normally found in key signatures—no double flats or sharps, no C-flat, etc.—and assumes you don’t have any enharmonic duplications, such as both G-sharp and A-flat.

1. For each position on the staff—C, D, E, F, G, A, and B—write down the number from the chart below that corresponds to whether a note appearing there is flat, natural, or sharp according to your key signature. Make sure you have a number from each row.

<u>Note</u>	<u>Flat</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Sharp</u>
C	-	0	1
D	1	2	3
E	3	4	-
F	-	5	6
G	6	7	8
A	8	9	10
B	10	11	-

2. In the Nonstandard Key Signature dialog, pick Nonlinear key signature.
3. Click the Keymap button. Ignore or uncheck the keyboard graphic at the bottom. Total Steps should be 12.
4. In the center box is a rather crudely-rendered set of 12 boxes numbered 0 to 11. For each number that you wrote down above, make its box white. Make all other boxes black.
5. You should wind up with 7 diatonic steps. Click OK.
6. Back in the Nonstandard Key Signature dialog, click the AOrdAmt button. In the Accidental Order and Amount dialog box, click Reset. Prev should be grayed out and it should say Unit: 1.
7. Enter the first accidental in your key signature according to the following table:

<u>Note</u>	<u>Step level</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Step level</u>	<u>Amount</u>
C#	0	1	Db	1	-1
D#	1	1	Eb	2	-1
F#	3	1	Gb	4	-1
G#	4	1	Ab	5	-1
A#	5	1	Bb	6	-1

8. For each subsequent accidental, click Next and enter the next one as above. “Unit” 2 is the second accidental in the key signature, Unit 3 the third, and so on.
9. After all have been entered, click Next once more and enter an amount of 0.
10. Click OK to return to the Nonstandard Key Signature dialog, click OK there to return to the Key Signature dialog, then OK there to complete the key signature.
11. You may find that, depending on your clef, some accidentals in the key signature are an octave too high or too low on the staff. To fix this, go back to the Nonstandard Key Signature dialog and click ClefOrd. In the Accidental Octave Placement dialog, Clef 0 is treble clef, Clef 1 alto clef, Clef 2 tenor clef, and Clef 3 bass clef. Pick the clef and “unit” you want to change and add or subtract 1 from Octave to move it up or down.
12. If you change your mind about the order of the accidentals, start over with step 6.