

Minor Scales: Natural, Harmonic and Melodic Forms

About Minor Scales:

- We call scales **RELATIVE** if they **share the same key signature**; Minor Scales are built on the 6th scale degree of a Major Scale
- To quickly find a MAJOR key's RELATIVE MINOR, count down 3 half-steps from the tonic note of the major scale (remember to start with the tonic then count down—don't count the tonic note as "one")
- Examples: C Major and A Minor are RELATIVES; C is the **RELATIVE MAJOR** of A Minor, and A Minor is **the RELATIVE MINOR** of C Major
- Minor Scales built on the same TONIC note of a Major Scale are called **PARALLEL**
- **PARALLEL** Major and Minor scales do NOT share the same key signature
- Examples: C Major and C Minor are PARALLEL; C Major is the **PARALLEL MAJOR** to C Minor, and C Minor is **the PARALLEL MINOR** to C Major

Minor Scales: Three Forms:

- Unlike major scales that are built with only one form, or pattern, of whole steps and half steps, minor scales appear in three different forms, and it is worthwhile to learn all three fluently
- NATURAL MINOR: no alterations (exact same notes as the relative major)
- HARMONIC MINOR: Raises scale degree 7 ascending and descending
- MELODIC MINOR: Raises scale degrees 6 and 7 ascending, lowers them descending (notice this means that the natural minor and descending melodic minor scale are the same)

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C Minor Scale NATURAL Form

Musical notation for the C Minor Scale in NATURAL Form. The scale is written in 4/4 time on a treble clef staff. The notes are C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

C Minor Scale HARMONIC Form

Musical notation for the C Minor Scale in HARMONIC Form. The scale is written in 4/4 time on a treble clef staff. The notes are C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

C Minor Scale MELODIC Form

Musical notation for the C Minor Scale in MELODIC Form. The scale is written in 4/4 time on a treble clef staff. The notes are C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

D Minor Scale NATURAL Form

Musical notation for the D Minor Scale in NATURAL Form. The scale is written in 4/4 time on a treble clef staff. The notes are D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

D Minor Scale HARMONIC Form

Musical notation for the D Minor Scale in HARMONIC Form. The scale is written in 4/4 time on a treble clef staff. The notes are D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

D Minor Scale MELODIC Form

Musical notation for the D Minor Scale in MELODIC Form. The scale is written in 4/4 time on a treble clef staff. The notes are D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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B Minor Scale NATURAL Form

Musical notation for the B Minor Scale in its natural form. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3. The notation includes fingerings: 1, 3, 1, 4, 1 for the first four notes; 3, 1, 4, 1 for the next four notes; 4, 1, 3, 1 for the next four notes; and 4, 1, 3, 1 for the final four notes. A '4' is written below the first note, and another '4' is written below the final note.

B Minor Scale HARMONIC Form

Musical notation for the B Minor Scale in its harmonic form. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G#3, A3, B3. The notation includes fingerings: 1, 3, 1, 4, 1 for the first four notes; 3, 1, 4, 1 for the next four notes; 4, 1, 3, 1 for the next four notes; and 4, 1, 3, 1 for the final four notes. A '4' is written below the first note, and another '4' is written below the final note.

B Minor Scale MELODIC Form

Musical notation for the B Minor Scale in its melodic form. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G#3, A3, B3. The notation includes fingerings: 1, 3, 1, 4, 1 for the first four notes; 3, 1, 4, 1 for the next four notes; 4, 1, 3, 1 for the next four notes; and 4, 1, 3, 1 for the final four notes. A '4' is written below the first note, and another '4' is written below the final note.

C# Minor Scale NATURAL Form

Musical notation for the C# Minor Scale in its natural form. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C#3, D#3, E3, F#3, G#3, A3, B3, C#4. The notation includes fingerings: 3, 4, 1, 3, 1 for the first five notes; 4, 1, 3, 1 for the next four notes; 1, 3, 1, 4, 1 for the next four notes; and 3, 1, 4, 3 for the final four notes. A '3' is written below the first note, and another '3' is written below the final note.

C# Minor Scale HARMONIC Form

Musical notation for the C# Minor Scale in its harmonic form. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C#3, D#3, E3, F#3, G#3, A3, B3, C#4. The notation includes fingerings: 3, 4, 1, 3, 1 for the first five notes; 4, 1, 3, 1 for the next four notes; 1, 3, 1, 4, 1 for the next four notes; and 3, 1, 4, 3 for the final four notes. A '3' is written below the first note, and another '3' is written below the final note.

C# Minor Scale MELODIC Form*

Musical notation for the C# Minor Scale in its melodic form. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are C#3, D#3, E3, F#3, G#3, A3, B3, C#4. The notation includes fingerings: 2, 3, 1, 4, 1 for the first five notes; 3, 1, 4, 1 for the next four notes; 1, 3, 1, 4, 1 for the next four notes; and 3, 1, 4, 3 for the final four notes. A '3' is written below the first note, and another '3' is written below the final note.

*Note: R.H. fingering *ascending* different from natural and harmonic forms

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E \flat Minor Scale NATURAL Form

E \flat Minor Scale HARMONIC Form

E \flat Minor Scale MELODIC Form

F# Minor Scale NATURAL Form

F# Minor Scale HARMONIC Form

F# Minor Scale MELODIC Form*

* Note *R.H. ascending* fingering different from natural and harmonic forms

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G# Minor Scale NATURAL Form

G# Minor Scale HARMONIC Form

G# Minor Scale MELODIC Form

Bb Minor Scale NATURAL Form

Bb Minor Scale HARMONIC Form

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