

Minor Scales

Each Major key will have a Relative Minor key.

The Relative Minor Scale is built upon the sixth tone of the Major Scale.

The Key Signature of both will be the same.

The Minor Scale will have the same number of tones (7) as the Major.

The difference between the scales is the arrangement of the whole-steps and half-steps.

There are three forms of the minor scale: 1. PURE or NATURAL, 2. HARMONIC, 3. MELODIC.

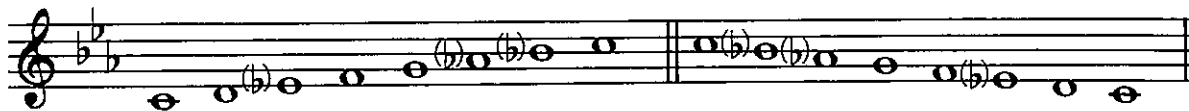
THE MAJOR AND RELATIVE MINOR KEYS:

D is the 6th Tone of the F Scale; G is the 6th Tone of the B Scale, etc.

	C	Am
F	Dm	F#
B \flat	Gm	B
E \flat	Cm	E
A \flat	Fm	A
D \flat	B \flat m	D
G \flat	E \flat m	G

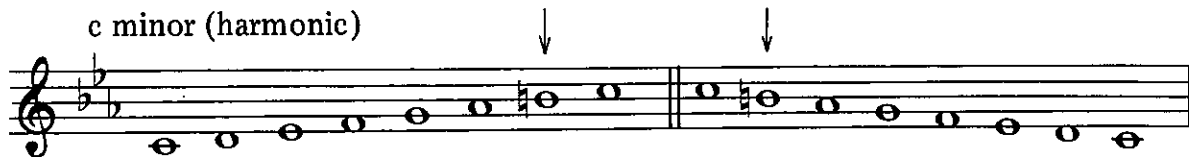
The NATURAL or PURE MINOR SCALE begins on the 6th degree of its relative major scale and ascends or descends for one octave using the key signature of the major scale. We usually use small letters to indicate minor keys. The half steps occur between 2 - 3 and 5 - 6.

c minor (natural)



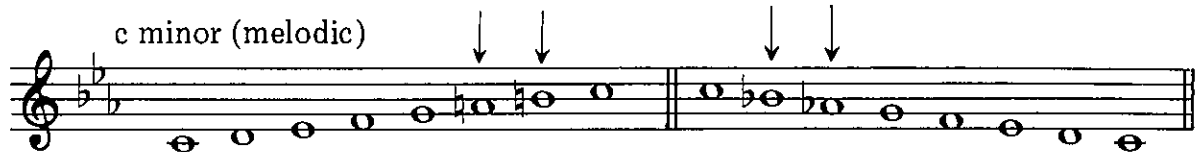
The HARMONIC MINOR SCALE begins on the 6th degree of its relative major scale and ascends or descends for one octave using the key signature of the major scale except that the 7th tone is raised 1/2 step. (See arrow in the example below) The half steps occur between 2 - 3, and 7 - 8.*

c minor (harmonic)



*The raised seventh scale tone in the harmonic minor creates the distance of a step and one half between 6 - 7.

The MELODIC MINOR SCALE also begins on the 6th degree of its relative major scale and ascends or descends for one octave using the key signature of the major scale except that in ascending the 6th and 7th tones are raised 1/2 step and in descending the 6th and 7th tones return to the natural or pure minor scale form.*

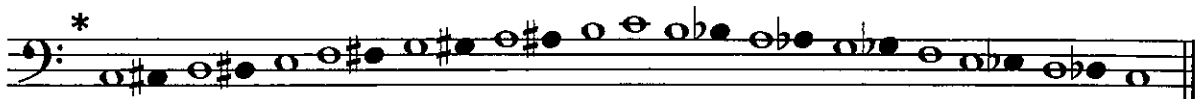


*In the melodic minor ascending, the half steps occur between the 2-3 and 7-8 notes

On a separate sheet of manuscript paper, construct the minor scale for each key and label the Root, Third, and Fifth tones of each scale. Show both the ascending and descending forms of the melodic minor. Finally, write the sharps or flats found in each key signature.

A CHROMATIC SCALE is a scale which consists entirely of half steps. It may be written by the use of accidentals (\sharp - \flat - \natural) in connection with the regular key signature. Sharp and natural signs are used for the ascending scale and flat and natural signs for the descending scale.

The filled-in notes designate the ascending and descending chromatic tones in C major in the following example:



On a separate sheet of manuscript paper, write an ascending chromatic scale in the key of Eb a and a descending chromatic scale in the key of A. Remember - - frequent drill in any musical skill is necessary.

*Notice that the chromatic scale has a number of enharmonic tones (see page 19). The term enharmonic pertains to tones which are "Spelled" differently but sound the same. For example: ab - $g\sharp$; cb - b ; eb - $d\sharp$; and fb - e .