

Minor Scales 2a: "Natural Minor"

(The "relative" minor scale. Aeolian mode.)

JimO

1. C major scale with bracketed 6th mode.

2. Starting with the 6th tone of the scale, play through the scale with standard fingering.

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3. This is the "Relative" minor of the major key. We call it that because it shares it's scale tones with the major key located at Step 3 above. Other names for it are "Natural" minor or Aeolian mode. If we think of this scale as a key center, it generates the following triad chords.

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Am	Bdim	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am
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4. The Aeolian mode scale is sometimes described as the "Parallel" minor of a major chord built from the same root. In this model the tones are called by the names below.

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A minor							
1m	2dim	b3M	4m	5m	b6M	b7M	1m
A major							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1

5. Aeolian Mode Exercise for all 12 keys.

Key Signatures of Relative Majors not included.

17 1. A minor

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

(Continue with "standard" fingering unless indicated)

21 2. D minor

25 3. E minor

29 4. G minor

33 5. B minor

37 6. C minor

41 7. F# minor

45 8. F minor

49 9. C# minor

53 10. Bb minor (Enharmonic A#)

57 11. G# minor (Enharmonic Ab)

61 12. Eb minor (Enharmonic D#)