

Minor Scales 2a: "Natural Minor"

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

JimO

1. C major scale with bracketed 6th mode. Relative minor

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

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

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

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.**

9 Am Bdim C Dm Em F G Am

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

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.

VIP!! Point. This structure shows us that A minor is an "A" scale--not a "mode" of C. More on all of this later in the Harmony/Chords pages ahead.

13 A minor

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

A major

5. Natural Minor 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

Detailed description: This block contains the first exercise for A minor, spanning measures 17 to 20. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of whole notes: A1, D2, F2, A2, D3, F3, A3, D3, F3, A3, D4, F4, A4, D4, F4. The fingering for the right hand is indicated below the notes: 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

Detailed description: This block contains the second exercise for D minor, spanning measures 21 to 24. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of whole notes: D2, F2, A2, D3, F3, A3, D4, F4, A4, D5, F5, A5, D6, F6, A6. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

25 3. E minor

Detailed description: This block contains the third exercise for E minor, spanning measures 25 to 28. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of whole notes: E2, G2, B2, E3, G3, B3, E4, G4, B4, E5, G5, B5, E6, G6, B6. The key signature has two flats (Bb, Eb).

29 4. G minor

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth exercise for G minor, spanning measures 29 to 32. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of whole notes: G2, B2, D3, G3, B3, D4, G4, B4, D5, G5, B5, D6, G6, B6, D7. The key signature has two flats (Bb, Eb).

33 5. B minor

Detailed description: This block contains the fifth exercise for B minor, spanning measures 33 to 36. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of whole notes: B2, D3, F3, B3, D4, F4, B4, D5, F5, B5, D6, F6, B6, D7, F7. The key signature has three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab).

37 6. C minor

Detailed description: This block contains the sixth exercise for C minor, spanning measures 37 to 40. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. The left hand (bass clef) plays a sequence of whole notes: C3, E3, G3, C4, E4, G4, C5, E5, G5, C6, E6, G6, C7, E7, G7. The key signature has three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab).

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#)