

Minor Scales LP1: The Basic Forms

(The "modes" and "altered" shapes of minor)

JimO

1. A "Natural" minor, "relative minor (to C major), AEOLIAN MODE.

This scale is considered the "parent" scale, or the "parallel" minor of a given key.

(Raise 6th degree)

This explanatory numbering system is based on the practice of describing each scale relative to the major scale built from each root-tone.

5 2. A Harmonic Minor.

9 3. A Melodic Minor. (Contemporary form) (Raise 6 and 7th degree)

13 4. A Melodic Minor. (Classical Form) (Descends with lowered 6 and 7th degree)

17 5. A Dorian Minor. Forms at 2nd degree of Major/Ionian mode.

This is a very popular scale for Jazz/Pop/Blues improvisors.

21 6. A Phrygian Minor. This mode contains a b2 scale degree. Popular in the music of Spain.