

Scales

Majors with Parallel Minors

FORMS OF THE MINOR SCALE:

Natural Minor- minor scale without any alterations.

Harmonic Minor- natural minor scale with a raised 7th degree (*leading tone*). This is the most commonly used minor form.

Melodic Minor- natural minor with a raised 6th and 7th degree ascending and un-altered 6th and 7th degree descending.

The *relative minor* to C Major is A minor- they share the same key signature.

The *parallel minor* to C Major is C minor- they share the same starting note (tonic).

To find the key signature for any minor scale, count up three half-steps from its starting note and use the key signature for the major scale built from that note.

C

The diagram shows the C Major scale and its three minor forms. The C Major scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The natural minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The harmonic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a raised 7th degree (F#). The melodic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb), a raised 6th degree (Eb), and a raised 7th degree (F#) ascending, and unaltered 6th and 7th degrees (Eb, F) descending.

F

The diagram shows the F Major scale and its three minor forms. The F Major scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The natural minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab). The harmonic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a raised 7th degree (Eb). The melodic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab), a raised 6th degree (Ab), and a raised 7th degree (Eb) ascending, and unaltered 6th and 7th degrees (Ab, Eb) descending.

Bb

The diagram shows the Bb Major scale and its three minor forms. The Bb Major scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The natural minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab). The harmonic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a raised 7th degree (Ab). The melodic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab), a raised 6th degree (Ab), and a raised 7th degree (Ab) ascending, and unaltered 6th and 7th degrees (Ab, Ab) descending.

Eb

The diagram shows the Eb Major scale and its three minor forms. The Eb Major scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab). The natural minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of four flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db). The harmonic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of four flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db) and a raised 7th degree (Db). The melodic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of four flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db), a raised 6th degree (Db), and a raised 7th degree (Db) ascending, and unaltered 6th and 7th degrees (Db, Db) descending.

Ab

The diagram shows the Ab Major scale and its three minor forms. The Ab Major scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of four flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db). The natural minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of five flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb). The harmonic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of five flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb) and a raised 7th degree (Gb). The melodic minor scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of five flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb), a raised 6th degree (Gb), and a raised 7th degree (Gb) ascending, and unaltered 6th and 7th degrees (Gb, Gb) descending.

The following pairs of major scales are enharmonic equivalents- they start on the same sounding pitch, although they are spelled differently. The parallel minor is built only from the "sharp" keys.

Major

D \flat 

Major

C \sharp 

natural minor  *harmonic minor*

melodic minor 

Major

G \flat 

Major

F \sharp 

natural minor  *harmonic minor*

melodic minor 

Major

C \flat 

Major

B 

natural minor  *harmonic minor*

melodic minor 

G *Major* *natural minor*

The G Major scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The G natural minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb).

harmonic minor *melodic minor*

The G harmonic minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats and a raised seventh degree (Bb, Eb, G#). The G melodic minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats and raised seventh and sixth degrees (Bb, Eb, G#, F#).

D *Major* *natural minor*

The D Major scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The D natural minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb).

harmonic minor *melodic minor*

The D harmonic minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats and a raised seventh degree (Bb, Eb, D#). The D melodic minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats and raised seventh and sixth degrees (Bb, Eb, D#, C#).

A *Major* *natural minor*

The A Major scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The A natural minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab).

harmonic minor *melodic minor*

The A harmonic minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats and a raised seventh degree (Bb, Eb, Ab, G#). The A melodic minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats and raised seventh and sixth degrees (Bb, Eb, Ab, G#, F#).

E *Major* *natural minor*

The E Major scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). The E natural minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of four flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db).

harmonic minor *melodic minor*

The E harmonic minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of four flats and a raised seventh degree (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, E#). The E melodic minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of four flats and raised seventh and sixth degrees (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, E#, D#).

The following minor keys do not have parallel majors, but nonetheless you should be familiar with them because they are used from time to time.

G# minor *natural minor*

The G# minor natural minor scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of five sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#, A#).

harmonic minor *melodic minor*

The G# minor harmonic scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of five sharps and a raised seventh degree (F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, G#). The G# minor melodic scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of five sharps and raised seventh and sixth degrees (F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, G#, F#).

D# minor

natural minor



harmonic minor

melodic minor



A# minor

natural minor



harmonic minor

melodic minor

