



ALFRED'S BASIC GUITAR METHOD 2

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Key of A Minor

For every major key, there is a minor key with the same key signature called the *relative minor key*. The keys of A minor and C major are relative keys because they have the same key signature (no sharps, no flats). The relative minor scale is built on the 6th tone of the major scale. Chords are built on the harmonic minor scale, which has its 7th step *augmented* (raised a half step).

A HARMONIC MINOR SCALE Track 23

The Three Principal Chords in the Key of A Minor

Am

Am

Dm

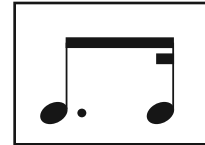
Dm

E7

E7

ACCOMPANIMENTS IN A MINOR

The Dotted 8th & 16th Note Rhythm



Like 8th notes, dotted 8ths and 16ths are played two to each beat. But unlike 8th notes (which are played evenly) dotted 8ths and 16ths are played *unevenly*: long, short, long, short.

Compare the following:

8th NOTES: ||

COUNT: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

DOTTED 8th and 16ths: ||

COUNT: 1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a | 1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a



An easy way to remember the sound of dotted 8ths and 16ths is to say the words:

“hump - ty dump - ty hump - ty dump - ty”

The dotted 8th and 16th note rhythm is very common in all kinds of music, but especially classical, folk, country, and blues. Here are examples of each to practice.

TOREADOR SONG Track 41

(FROM CARMEN)

Slow march

George Bizet

TEACHER: G