

# Minor Scale Pro

## Lesson Enhancement Series

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Scales are the foundation of music. Learning to play scales in all keys provides pianists with valuable technical skills: coordinating the hands, learning the keyboard topography of different keys, and increasing speed and agility using basic musical patterns.

*Minor Scale Pro, Book 2* introduces students to the five black-key minor scales in a systematic way. Basics of building a natural minor scale are presented, first by learning the pattern of whole steps and half steps, and then relating each minor key to its relative major. Students then learn how to build harmonic minor and melodic minor scales from the natural minor and play harmonic minor scales in tetrachord position. Suggestions are given for remembering harmonic minor scale fingerings.

Finally, students play each scale for one octave, hands together, in contrary and parallel motion with an optional teacher duet. Each one-octave scale is followed by a two-octave scale in the same key, played in parallel and contrary motion, also with an optional teacher duet.

The materials in *Minor Scale Pro* will provide a satisfying musical experience as pianists learn important technical skills.

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# Minor Scale Basics

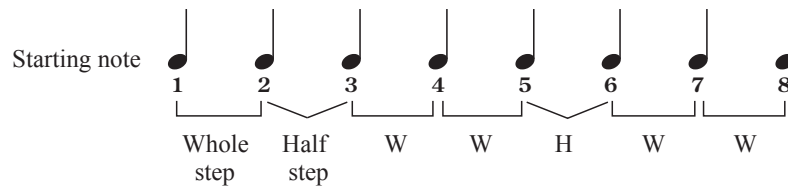
## 1. What is a minor scale?

A minor scale consists of eight notes following a specific sequence of whole and half steps. Each scale begins and ends on the keynote—the note that has the same name as the scale.



## 2. How can I build a minor scale?

Any minor scale can be formed by following this sequence of whole and half steps:  
W H W W H W W.



## 3. How do major and minor scales relate to each other?

Every major key has a **relative minor key** that has the same key signature. The relative minor begins on the 6th tone of the major scale. The relative minor of D-flat major is, therefore, B-flat minor.

Because the keys of D-flat major and B-flat minor have the same key signature (five flats), they are **relatives**.

The minor scale shown below is called the **natural minor scale**. It uses only notes that are found in the relative major scale.

D $\flat$  MAJOR SCALE

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th

B $\flat$  MINOR SCALE

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th

# Remembering Harmonic Minor Scale Fingering

The following principles will help you remember the fingering for minor scales that begin on black keys.

1. Use fingers 2, 3, and 4 on black keys.
2. F $\sharp$ , C $\sharp$ , and G $\sharp$  harmonic minor scales use the same fingering in the RH.  
RH: 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 3
3. C $\sharp$  and G $\sharp$  harmonic minor scales use the same fingering in the LH.  
LH: 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3
4. The RH fingering of B $\flat$  minor is the same as B $\flat$  major.  
RH: 4 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
5. The RH fingering of E $\flat$  minor is the same as E $\flat$  major.  
RH: 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3

## Minor Scale Practice

Practice these exercises to prepare for minor scale playing.

1. F $\sharp$  Minor *mf* *Pass 1 under 4* *Cross 4 over 1*  


Transpose to C $\sharp$  and G $\sharp$  minor.

2. B $\flat$  Minor *mf* *Pass 1 under 4* *Cross 4 over 1*  


3. E $\flat$  Minor *mf* *Pass 1 under 3* *Cross 3 over 1*  


4. F $\sharp$  Minor *mf* *Cross 3 over 1* *Pass 1 under 3*  


5. C $\sharp$  Minor *mf* *Cross 4 over 1* *Pass 1 under 4*  


Transpose to G $\sharp$  minor.

6. B $\flat$  Minor *mf* *Cross 3 over 1* *Pass 1 under 3*  


7. E $\flat$  Minor *mf* *Cross 4 over 1* *Pass 1 under 4*  
