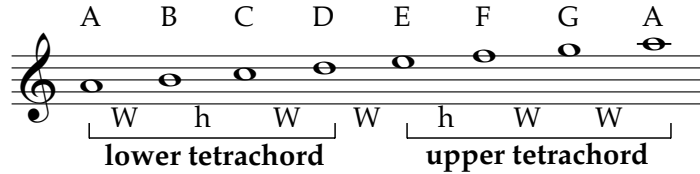


Section 2.4

MINOR SCALES: TWO ROADS

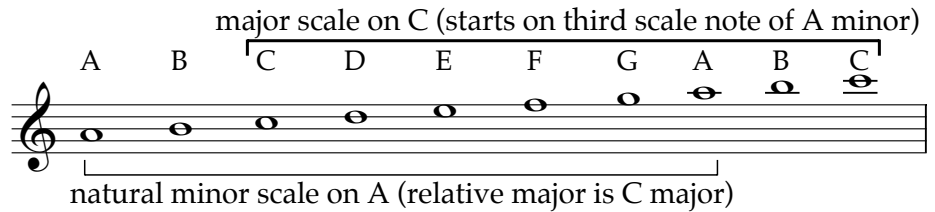
Minor scale

The most common minor scale, the **natural minor scale**, follows the pattern of half steps and whole steps formed by the white piano keys from A up to the next A: whole, half, whole; then whole; then half, whole, whole.



Relative keys

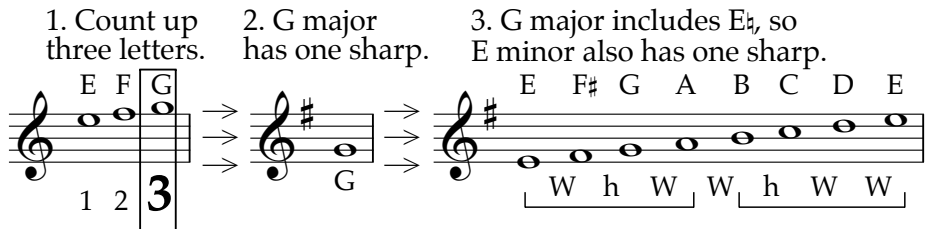
Relative keys are any major scale and natural minor scale that share a key signature. The **third note** of the minor scale is the first note of the **relative major** with the same key signature. For example, C is the third scale note of A minor. C major and A minor are relative keys sharing a key signature with no flats or sharps. Remember: **Relatives at a family reunion look alike, and relative key signatures “look alike” also.**



Road one: relative minor

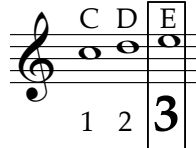
There are two roads to find key signatures for minor scales: relative and parallel. The example below illustrates the **relative minor** method for spelling E minor.


- STEP 1:** Count up **three** letter names to find the relative major.
- STEP 2:** Spell the relative major key signature.
- STEP 3:** Adjust if necessary to match the minor scale you want.




Relative minor with adjustment

Sometimes counting up three letters gives a major key that doesn't fit with the minor key you want. C minor is a good example. Counting up from C gives E: C, D, E. E major has four sharps, including C **sharp**. Since we want C **natural**, not C sharp, we need to use the key signature for E **flat** major (three flats) instead of E major.

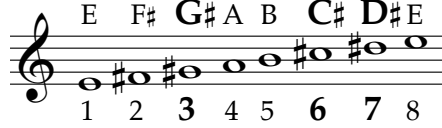
1. Count up three letters.



2. E major has four sharps.


3. E major includes C#, not C \flat , so use the E \flat major key sig. instead.


Road two: parallel minor

Parallel keys share the **same starting note** (called the **tonic**). To find the natural minor notes using the **parallel key**, write a major scale on the same note, then **lower 3, 6, and 7** using accidentals. Although the parallel and relative methods both work, minor keys should be **memorized**.

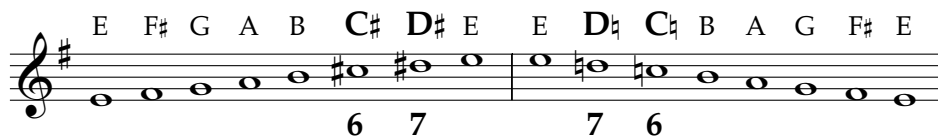
E major = 4 #


E minor = 1 #


Lower steps 3, 6, and 7 with accidentals.

Melodic minor

Melodic minor is **natural minor** with steps 6 and 7 raised going up, but like **natural minor** going down. Notice the F sharp in the key for E minor.



Harmonic minor

Harmonic minor is natural minor with **step 7 raised** (only) both up and down. Again, the F sharp reflects the key signature for E natural minor.

