

Section 4.1.3 MINOR TRIADS

Minor triads

A **minor triad** uses a minor third on the bottom and a major third on top of the stack of thirds. Scale steps 1, 3, and 5 in a minor scale form a minor triad. The bottom note in the stack of thirds is still the **root**, the middle note the **third**, and the top note the **fifth**.

MINOR SCALE STEPS:

1 (2) 3 (4) 5

3 HALF STEPS 4 HALF STEPS

ROOT, 3RD, 5TH

All minor triads

A minor triad is a major triad with the third lowered a half step. Like major triads, learning minor triads in groups makes them easier to memorize. Compare these groups with the groups for major triads in **section 1.2**:

1. Minor triads on **F**, **C**, and **G** have a flat on the third. Minor triads on **F sharp**, **C sharp**, and **G sharp** have a natural on the third.
2. Minor triads on **E**, **A**, or **D** are all natural.
3. Minor triads on **B** or **B flat** have the same accidental for **both** the root and the third.
4. **E flat=black keys**: **E flat** is the only minor triad with all black keys.

F-/C-/G- "LOWERING" ACCIDENTAL ON THIRD

F- C- G-

F#- C#- G#-

E- A- D- ALL NATURALS

B-/Bb-

EB EB- ALL FLATS