
Introducing Minor Scales

Minor Scales

In lesson 7 you learned how to play the A minor triad. This, as you know, is also the chord of A minor.

In this lesson you will learn how to play a minor scale on A-the A minor scale. The minor scale includes the notes of the minor triad. There are two key facts to know and understand.

- The minor triad has 3 notes.
- The minor scale has 7 notes.

There is a relationship between the minor triad and the minor scale and you should look at this first.

Minor Triad / Minor Scale Relationship

As stated in the introduction, there is a relationship between the minor triad and the minor scale which is best explained to you in steps.

- The A minor chord is A, C and E. (Represented by blue notes in *Figure 1*).
- Between A and C is B.
- Between C and E is D.
- We now have the first 5 notes of our scale.

You will recall that there are 7 notes in a scale with the root note (A in this case) repeated at the top of the scale to give us an octave.

Therefore, our A minor scale is:

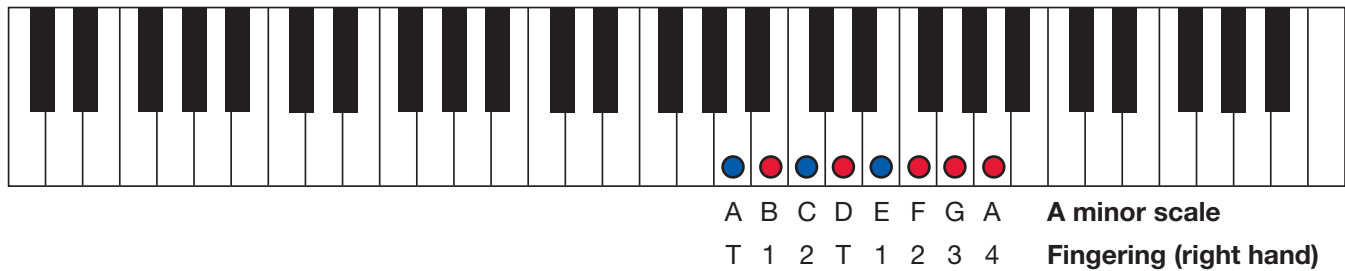
A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A

Look at our example and then practise playing the scale up and down using the thumb under and over techniques we learned earlier in the course.

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce the minor scale for A.
- Understand the relationship between minor triads and minor scales.
- Perform ascending and descending minor scales using quarter notes.
- Introduce and apply left hand and right hand fingering for minor scales.
- Develop the ability to be able to play a minor scale on any natural note.

Figure 1: A minor scale



As always there are supportive multimedia files and we have written the music out below. Try and learn the scale by remembering the notes in the scale.

Exercise 1

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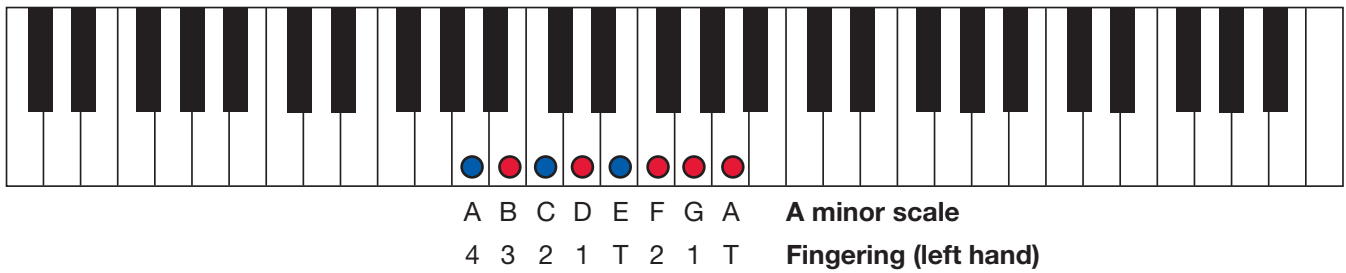


A minor scale – an octave lower

To become fluent in this scale we should practise with the left hand as well. Accordingly the next exercise is written an octave lower. Again remember how to use your 2nd finger over technique on the ascending scale and thumb under technique on the descending scale.

The blue notes in our figure represent the notes that produce our A minor triad. Use the multimedia file as always.

Figure 2: A minor scale down an octave



Exercise 2

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Transferability

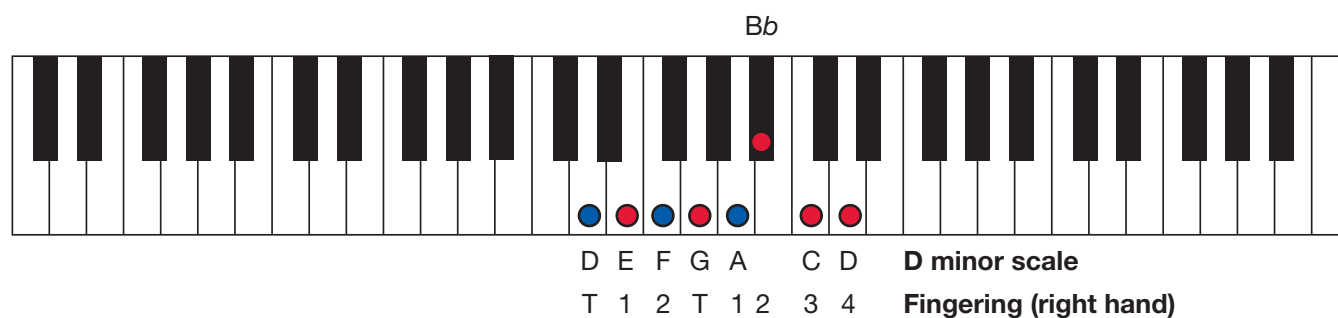
Because of the layout of the keyboard it is possible to transfer what you have learned to other notes. For example, you can transfer the minor scale to begin on D and play a D minor scale.

The notes for D minor are;

D, E, F, G, A, B \flat , C, D

Let's play the D minor scale, again developing fluency, timing and trying to remember the notes that make up the scale of D minor. Once again the blue notes are our minor triad.

Figure 3: D minor scale

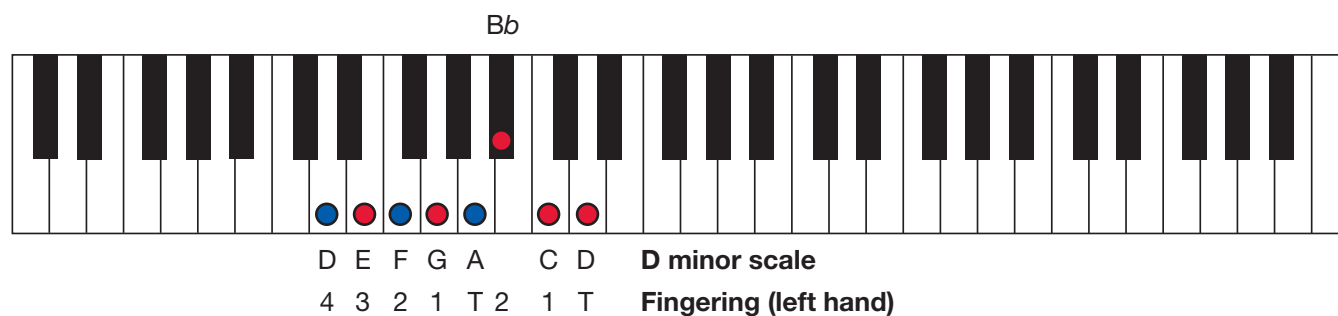
**Exercise 3**

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**Left hand D minor scale**

Now play the D minor scale an octave lower in the bass clef using your left hand. This will give you more left hand practise to develop the fluency of your scales. Practise around and around as usual, using the KeyboardXtractor to help you become more comfortable.

Figure 3: D minor scale down an octave



Exercise 4

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More about the minor scale/minor triad relationship

You are already aware of the existence of the relationship between a chord and a scale. This relationship exists for both major and minor.

Currently we are working on the D minor scale. How would you find the notes for D minor triad from the D minor scale?

Looking back at what we have just learned might help.

For example the A minor scale is;

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A

whilst the A minor chord is;

A, C, E

The minor triad is created by the selection of 3 specific notes from it's minor scale.

Simply put, you:

play one – miss one – play one – miss one – play one

Lets take the D minor scale and use the following table to see which notes are selected for the D minor Triad.

Figure 5: Relationship between minor scale and minor triad using D minor.

Play one Root	Miss one Second	Play one Flattened third	Miss one Fourth	Play One Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Octave
D	E	F	G	A	B \flat	C	D

D minor triad from D minor scale

We can use this table to help us create the minor triads from minor scales. We have learned the A minor scale and the D minor scale, so lets now complete the table with the remaining 5 notes and then practise playing their minor scales.

Once we know their scales, our table will tell us which notes make up the minor triads for each note.

Figure 6: Relationship between minor scale and minor triad for all notes.

Play one Root	Miss one Second	Play one Flattened third	Miss one Fourth	Play One Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Octave
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
B	C \sharp	D	E	F\sharp	G	A	B
C	D	E\flat	F	G	A \flat	B \flat	C
D	E	F	G	A	B \flat	C	D
E	F \sharp	G	A	B	C	D	E
F	G	A\flat	B \flat	C	D \flat	E \flat	F
G	A	B\flat	C	D	E \flat	F	G

Practise exercises for minor scales

We have learned that if you know the scale for each note you can work out and form the triad.

Accordingly, we are going to finish this lesson with 5 more exercises so that you will know and be able to play all of the natural minor scales.

Use the tables, your ability to read and play in time to help you learn these scales. As always you have the multimedia files to watch and play along with to ensure you are getting them right.

Figure 7: G minor scale

B \flat E \flat

G A C D F G **G minor scale**
 T 1 2 T 1 2 3 4 **Fingering (right hand)**

Exercise 5

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Figure 8: C minor scale

Eb Ab Bb

C D F B C **C minor scale**
T 1 2 T 1 2 3 4 **Fingering (right hand)**

Exercise 6

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Figure 9: E minor scale

F#

E G A B C D E **E minor scale**
T 1 2 T 1 2 3 4 **Fingering (right hand)**

Exercise 7

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Figure 10: B minor scale

C# F#

B D E G A B **B minor scale**
 T 1 2 T 1 2 3 4 **Fingering (right hand)**

Exercise 8

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Figure 11: F minor scale

Ab Bb Db Eb

F G A B C **F minor scale**
 T 1 2 T 1 2 3 4 **Fingering (right hand)**

Exercise 9

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