

MUS 102 Music Fundamentals
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A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals, 10th edition by William Duckworth
Chapter 9 Minor Scales

Vocabulary and Concepts

Forms of the minor scale:

Natural minor: no changes from the notes of the relative major.

Harmonic minor: raise the 7th degree of the scale one half-step

Melodic minor: raise the 6th and 7th degrees of the scale one half-step ascending and lower them to the natural form descending.

See the music example on p. 177 and 180 to see how natural, harmonic and melodic versions look respectively. The raised notes are never part of the key signature.

Natural Minor

Scale Pattern: W-H-W-W-H-W-W

The 7th degree position is one whole step away from tonic. That position is known as the “**subtonic.**” In a major scale, the 7th degree is only a semitone away from tonic called the “**leading-tone.**”

Example: A natural minor: A-B-C-D-E-F-G-A

Harmonic Minor

Scale Pattern: W-H-W-W-H-1& ½ - H (The sub-median to leading tone interval is 3 half steps)

Example: A harmonic minor: A-B-C-D-E-F-G#-A

Melodic Minor

Scale Pattern:

W-H-W-W-W-W-H ascending

W-W-H-W-W-H-W descending

Example: A melodic minor: A-B-C-D-E-F#-G#-A / A-G-F-E-D-C-B-A

Singing minor key solfege

Preferred: using La as starting tonic note to preserve absolute interval relationships with the syllables used

Natural minor: La-Ti-Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La

Harmonic minor: La-Ti-Do-Re-Mi-Fa-**Si**-La

Melodic minor: La-Ti-Do-Re-Mi-**Fi-Si**-La-Sol-**Fa-Mi**-Re-Do-Ti-La

Suggested exercises:

Try the Practice Materials on pp. 189-202