Minor Key Chord Chart.

The chords in every minor key, with Roman numerals, the harmonic minor's V and vii°, and the minor progressions players use most.

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CHORDS & HARMONY

Chords in Minor Keys

The chords of every minor key, in circle-of-fifths order, with the major key that shares them. Pick your key's row and read across; read down a column to see the same numeral in every key.

KEY RELATIVE MAJOR	Natural minor							Harmonic minor *usual before i*	
	i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII	V	vii°
A minor C major	Am	B°	C	Dm	Em	F	G	E	G♯°
E minor G major	Em	F♯°	G	Am	Bm	C	D	B	D♯°
B minor D major	Bm	C♯°	D	Em	F♯m	G	A	F♯	A♯°
F♯ minor A major	F♯m	G♯°	A	Bm	C♯m	D	E	C♯	E♯°
C♯ minor E major	C♯m	D♯°	E	F♯m	G♯m	A	B	G♯	B♯°
G♯ minor B major	G♯m	A♯°	B	C♯m	D♯m	E	F♯	D♯	F𝄪°
E♭ minor G♭ major	E♭m	F°	G♭	A♭m	B♭m	C♭	D♭	B♭	D°
B♭ minor D♭ major	B♭m	C°	D♭	E♭m	Fm	G♭	A♭	F	A°
F minor A♭ major	Fm	G°	A♭	B♭m	Cm	D♭	E♭	C	E°
C minor E♭ major	Cm	D°	E♭	Fm	Gm	A♭	B♭	G	B°
G minor B♭ major	Gm	A°	B♭	Cm	Dm	E♭	F	D	F♯°
D minor F major	Dm	E°	F	Gm	Am	B♭	C	A	C♯°

Uppercase numerals are major chords, lowercase are minor, ° is diminished. Shaded: i, iv and V, the three main chords. V and vii° come from the harmonic minor, which raises the key's 7th note (G♯ in A minor); most songs use V, not v, as the chord before home.

Common minor progressions

i – iv – V
The minor key's main chords
in A minor: **Am – Dm – E**

i – VI – III – VII
Pop: the same four chords as I–V–vi–IV
in A minor: **Am – F – C – G**

i – VII – VI – V
The Andalusian descent, from flamenco
in A minor: **Am – G – F – E**

i – VI – VII
Rock, climbing back to i
in A minor: **Am – F – G**

ii° – V – i
Jazz, and the end of many minor songs
in A minor: **B° – E – Am**

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Nashville Numbers in Minor Keys

Nashville players number minor keys two ways. Some count from the minor home, so home is 1m; others count from the relative major, so home is 6m. Both are common: agree with your band which you use.

	i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII	V	vii°
In A minor	Am	B°	C	Dm	Em	F	G	E	G♯°
Home is 1m counting from A	**1m**	**2°**	**♭3**	**4m**	**5m**	**♭6**	**♭7**	**5**	**7°**
Home is 6m counting from C major	**6m**	**7°**	**1**	**2m**	**3m**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**♯5°**

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Why Minor Keys Use a Major V

Natural minor: v Em — E G B
→
Harmonic minor: V E — E G♯ B

G♯ → A
a semitone up to home

In A minor's own scale the 7th note, G, is a tone below home, so the chord on 5 is minor: Em. Raise the 7th to G♯ and that chord becomes E major. Its G♯ sits a semitone below A and pulls up to it, so V–i sounds finished, just like V–I in a major key.

The raised note is called the leading note. It also builds vii°, another chord that leads home. Melodies often use G going down and G♯ going up.

CHORDS & HARMONY

Minor 12-Bar Blues

The 12-bar blues with minor chords: i, iv and v in place of I, IV and V. Shown in A minor.

Am7 i7	**Am7** i7	**Am7** i7	**Am7** i7
Dm7 iv7	**Dm7** iv7	**Am7** i7	**Am7** i7
Em7 v7	**Dm7** iv7	**Am7** i7	**Em7** v7

Many players use E7 (V7) in bars 9 and 12 instead of Em7, for a stronger pull back to Am7.

CHORDS & HARMONY

Cadences

Cadences are the chord moves that end a phrase, like punctuation.

Perfect Full stop	V I	G → C
Plagal The "Amen" ending	IV I	F → C
Imperfect Comma, unfinished	I V	C → G
Interrupted Surprise	V vi	G → Am

PRACTICE TIP

Practise slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.

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