

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 <i>usual before i</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#	Fx°
Eb minor Gb major	Ebm	F°	Gb	Abm	Bbm	Cb	Db	Bb	D°
Bb minor Db major	Bbm	C°	Db	Ebm	Fm	Gb	Ab	F	A°
F minor Ab major	Fm	G°	Ab	Bbm	Cm	Db	Eb	C	E°
C minor Eb major	Cm	D°	Eb	Fm	Gm	Ab	Bb	G	B°
G minor Bb major	Gm	A°	Bb	Cm	Dm	Eb	F	D	F#°
D minor F major	Dm	E°	F	Gm	Am	Bb	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 – VII

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

i – VI – III – VII

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

ii° – V – i

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

i – VII – VI – V

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

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Why Minor Keys Use a Major V

Natural minor	→	Harmonic minor
v Em		V E
E G B		E G# B

G# → A
a half step up to home

In A minor's own scale the 7th note, G, is a whole step 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 half step 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 tone. It also builds vii°, another chord that leads home. Melodies often use G going down and G# going up.

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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 measures 9 and 12 instead of Em7, for a stronger pull back to Am7.

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Cadences

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

Authentic Full stop	V I	G → C
Plagal The "Amen" ending	IV I	F → C
Half Comma, unfinished	I V	C → G
Deceptive Surprise	V vi	G → Am

PRACTICE TIP

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

