

Minor Keys

Just like the major scale has a relative minor with the same collection of notes, the major scale chord family has a relative minor chord family with the same chords.

The chords are basic **triads** - 3 note chords containing a root, 3rd, and 5th.

Some chords are **major** (1, 3, 5) and others are **minor** (1, b3, 5).

For example, the **A Minor Scale** has no sharps or flats, therefore the chords in the A Minor chord family cannot contain any sharps or flats.

So the 4 chord (D) is **minor** since D Major is spelled D, F#, A.

A Minor Scale

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

Chord Family

- I 1. **A**, C, E = Am
- ii° 2. **B**, D, F = B°
- III 3. **C**, E, G = C
- IV 4. **D**, F, A = Dm
- v 5. **E**, G, B = Em
- VI 6. **F**, A, C = F
- VII 7. **G**, B, D = G

This order of major and minor chords applies to all keys:

- i , ii° , III , iv , v , VI, VII**
- 1 - Minor
- 2 - Diminished
- 3 - Major
- 4 - Minor
- 5 - Minor
- 6 - Major
- 7 - Major

The most commonly used chords are the same collection as the relative major key.

We just now think of Am as our 1 chord (i).

C major - C, F, G, Am

A minor - Am, C, F, G

So, when Am is our 1 chord we have **Am** (1), **C** (b3), **F** (b6), **G** (b7)

Note: It is implied that the 3, 6, and 7 are all flat (b) in the examples below.

Key of Am

Am, C, F, G
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of Em

Em, G, C, D
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of Bm

Bm, D, G, A
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of F#m

F#m, A, D, E
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of C#m

C#m, E, A, B
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of Dm

Dm, F, Bb, C
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of Cm

Cm, Eb, A, Bb
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of Gm

Gm, Bb, Eb, F
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of Fm

Fm, Ab, Db, Eb
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of G#m

G#, B, E, F#
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of Bbm

Bbm, C, Gb, Ab
1, 3, 6, 7

Key of D#m

D#, F, B, C#
1, 3, 6, 7