



Natural Minor Scale

The parallel partner of the major scale

The natural minor scale uses a different pattern of whole and half steps. It is the scale that gives us the relative minor key and the darker colour of minor chords.

The natural minor formula

Whole – Half – Whole – Whole – Half – Whole – Whole

W	H	W	W	H	W	W
whole	half	whole	whole	half	whole	whole

Example: A natural minor (relative of C major)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
	W	H	W	W	H	W	W

Important relationship

A natural minor contains exactly the same notes as C major. That is why they are relative keys. The only difference is which note feels like home.

Why learn it

Most minor-key songs use this scale. Once you know the formula you can build a natural minor scale on any starting note, just as you do with the major scale.

Compare this sheet with the Major Scale sheet — the two formulas together unlock every major and natural minor key.