

THE MINOR NATURAL (diatonic) SCALE

Eg: the **A minor scale**

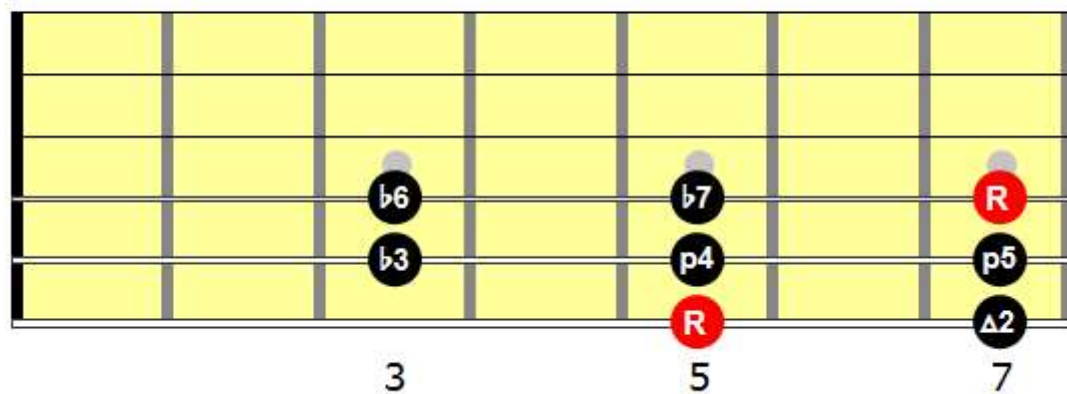
STANDARD NOTATION and TABLATURE

The Minor Natural Scale

The image shows the A minor natural scale in standard notation and guitar tablature. The standard notation is in 4/4 time, starting on A4 (5th line) and ending on A5 (4th line). The guitar tablature is for an acoustic guitar, showing the scale across the 5th, 7th, and 9th frets. The notes are A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, corresponding to frets 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

FRETBOARD DIAGRAM

A Minor Natural Scale



This is also the 6th MODE (aeolian) of the C major scale. Check out the MODES support document!

IT'S PRACTICAL!

Practice it on the fret-board as a finger exercise.

Use your index finger in the 3rd fret, ring finger in the 5th, pinkie finger in the 7th.

IT HELPS WITH THEORY!

Just like the major scale, understanding this scale can help you understand:

- Intervals (pitch distance between any 2 notes).
- Scale chords (chords come from scales!).
- Diatonic melody.

LEARN THE INTERVAL PATTERN! (It's important).

T - S - T - T - S - T - T
I ii iii iv v vi vii viii (i)

Where T = tone (or whole tone, a movement of 2 frets along any one string).
And S = semitone (as you probably guessed, a 1 fret move).

In other words, there is a whole tone separating the 1st and 2nd notes, a semitone between 2nd and 3rd, a whole tone between 3rd and 4th etc.

TRY PLAYING THE SCALE IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS!

EG Start from the 7th fret (of the same string) for a B minor natural scale.

You could start from the 3rd fret of the A string for a C minor natural scale (playing this shape from the low E or A strings will not require you to change the shape of the scale, however starting from the D or G strings will).

AND ENJOY! :)