

Understanding The Minor Key

We will learn about the key of A Minor to start. The minor key has a sad sounding tonality.

First we must learn the minor scale to learn how the notes relate to the chords and how the chords have a numeric value in the key.

A Minor Scale

The Notes: A B C D E F G A

For each of the notes in the major scale we have a corresponding chord. Each chord also takes a numeric value of its place in the key.

Triads	Am	B ^o	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am
	231	1243	32 1	231	12	134211	21 34	231
	0	3	0	1	0	1	3	0
T	1	3	1	3	0	1	3	1
A	2	4	0	2	0	2	0	2
B	2	3	2	0	2	3	0	2
	0	2	3	2	2	3	2	0
	0	2	3	0	0	1	3	0
Numeric Value	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	I
	Minor	Diminished	Major	Minor	Minor	Relative Major	Major	Minor

The I, IV and V chords in the key represent are minor chords and are also referred to as our Primary Chords.

The III, VI and VII chords are our major chords in the key and are known as our Secondary Chords.

The VI chord is the Relative Major.

7 Chords	Am ⁷	Bm ^{7(b5)}	Cmaj ⁷	Dm ⁷	Em ⁷	Fmaj ⁷	G ⁷	Am ⁷
	2 1	1324	32	211	23 4	1 342	32 1	2 1
	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0
T	1	3	0	1	3	1	0	1
A	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0
B	2	3	2	0	2	2	0	2
	0	2	3	0	2	0	2	0
	0	2	3	0	0	1	3	0
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	I
	Minor ⁷	Minor ^{7b5}	Major ⁷	Minor ⁷	Minor ⁷	Major ⁷	Dominant ⁷	Minor ⁷