

CHORDS IN EACH MINOR KEY -written by David Taub

There are three different types of minor scales, Natural Minor or Aeolian mode, Melodic Minor, and Harmonic Minor. To create a minor scale in any key start on the root note and go up the scale using the pattern: **whole step, half step, whole step, whole step, half step, whole step, whole step**. The first chord will always be minor, the second chord will always be diminished, the third chord will always be major, the fourth chord will always be minor, the fifth chord will always be minor, the sixth chord will always be major, and the seventh chord will always be major. Due to the three different minor scales there are more choices of chords when writing music in minor key as compared to major key. For discussional purposes and to keep things relatively simple the chart below illustrates the minor key chordal options when we harmonize the Natural Minor scale, (**in black**), with the ascending version of the Melodic Minor scale, (**in red**). As illustrated you have many different chordal options when writing in minor key so experiment and let your ear guide you. So all twelve minor key signatures are listed below along with the corresponding chords that make up each key. Try writing a song using various combinations of these chords in a given key. Use trial and error and see what sounds best to your ears. Remember that the chart below is just a guide and that in a song any chord can appear in any key. The chords below are **much more likely** to appear in each given key as they are made from combinations of notes in the corresponding scale.

KEY signature	Natural Minor (Aeolian mode)	1 Minor	2 diminished	b3 major	4 minor	5 minor	b6 major	b7 major
	Melodic Minor (Ascending)	1 minor	2 minor	b3 augmented	4 major	5 major	6 diminished	7 diminished
Cm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Cm Cm	Ddim Dm	Eb Eaug	Fm F	Gm G	Ab Adim	Bb Bdim
Gm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Gm Gm	Adim Am	B Baug	Cm C	Dm D	Eb Edim	F Gbdim
Dm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Dm Dm	Edim Em	F Faug	Gm G	Am A	Bb Bdim	C Dbdim
Am	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Am Am	Bdim Bm	C Caug	Dm D	Em E	F Gbdim	G Abdim
Em	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Em Em	F#dim F#m	G Gaug	Am A	Bm B	C Dbdim	D Ebdim
Bm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Bm Bm	C#dim C#m	D Daug	Em E	F#m F#	G Abdim	A Bbdim
F#m	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	F#m F#m	G#dim G#m	A Aaug	Bm B	C#m C#	D Ebdim	E Fdim
Dbm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Dbm Dbm	Ebdim Ebm	E Eaug	F#m F#	Abm Ab	A Bbdim	B Cdim
Abm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Abm Abm	Bbdim Bbm	B Baug	Dbm Db	Ebm Eb	E Fdim	Gb Gdim
Ebm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Ebm Ebm	Fdim Fm	Gb Gaug	Abm Ab	Bbm Bb	B Cdim	Db Ddim
Bbm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Bbm Bbm	Cdim Cm	Db Daug	Ebm Eb	Fm F	Gb Gdim	Ab Adim
Fm	Natural Minor Melodic Minor	Fm Fm	Gdim Gm	Ab Aaug	Bbm Bb	Cm C	Db Ddim	Eb Edim