

Understanding Minor Scales

in the key of C Major / a minor

1 D Dorian. It is the same as starting on the 2nd degree of the C Major Scale

Root M2 m3 P4 P5 M6 m7 P Octave

2 E Phrygian. It is the same as starting on the 3rd degree of the C Major Scale

Root m2 m3 P4 P5 m6 m7 P Octave

3 A Aeolian. It is the same as starting on the 6th degree of the C Major Scale. *Aeolian is identical to Natural Minor

Root M2 m3 P4 P5 m6 m7 P Octave

4 A Dorian. It is the same as starting on the 2nd degree of the G Major Scale

Root M2 m3 P4 P5 M6 m7 P Octave

5 A Phrygian. It is the same as starting on the 3rd degree of the F Major Scale

Root m2 m3 P4 P5 m6 m7 P Octave

6 A Aeolian. It is the same as starting on the 6th degree of the C Major Scale. *Aeolian is identical to Natural Minor

Root M2 m3 P4 P5 m6 m7 P Octave

7 A Minor Pentatonic. It uses only the 5 COMMON tones of Dorian, Phrygian and Aeolian (Natural Minor).

Root m3 P4 P5 m7 P Octave

8 A Harmonic Minor.*Harmonic minor is identical to Natural Minor except that it has a RAISED 7th degree.

Root M2 m3 P4 P5 m6 M7 P Octave

9 A Jazz Melodic Minor.*Melodic minor is identical to Natural Minor except that it has RAISED 6th & 7th degrees.

Root M2 m3 P4 P5 M6 M7 P Octave

10 A Melodic Minor.*Traditional Melodic minor has RAISED 6th & 7th degrees ascending but lowers them descending.

M6 M7 m7 m6