

RELATIVE MINOR SCALE EXPLAINED

NATURAL MINOR SCALE FORMULA: W 1/2 W W 1/2 W W

- Build from formula *C Major Scale* or • Take the major scale of same name and lower 3, 6 and 7. *C Minor Scale*

C Major Scale

C Minor Scale

- Another way to think about minor scales is by using their relative majors.
- People that are relatives share genes. Scales that are relatives share notes.

HOW TO FIND THE RELATIVE MINOR: GO DOWN 3 IN THE MAJOR SCALE

- Example:
- Starting on the first note of the C scale, go down 3.
 - You land on A.
 - So, C major's relative minor is A minor.

WHAT DOES THE MAJOR AND ITS RELATIVE MINOR HAVE IN COMMON?

They are made up of all of the same notes with the same number of sharps and flats/same key signature.

- Notice there is nothing where the key signature goes.
- That's because this key has no sharps or flats.

Key of C Major

Key of A Minor

HOW IS THE RELATIVE MINOR DIFFERENT THAN ITS MAJOR?

- Has all of the same notes but starts and ends on a different note.
- Has a different half-step/whole-step formula.

Key of C Major

Key of A Minor

- Try playing them. Notice that minor sounds sad and major sounds happy.
- Key changes are often between the major and relative minor.
(Because they have all the same notes, they work well next to each other.)