

The Harmonic Minor

Music

One raised note that gives the minor key a proper dominant chord.

Harmonic minor is the natural minor with a raised seventh degree.

W · H · W · W · H · W+H · H

A harmonic minor

The G^{sharp} is the whole point.

A B C D E F G^{sharp} A

Why raise it **It makes E major, not E minor, the V chord**

A major V gives a real cadence.

The gap

F to G^{sharp} is three semitones

That leap is what makes it sound Middle Eastern.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

× **Using it for a smooth melodic line**

✓ **Use melodic minor for melody, harmonic for chords**

The augmented second between the 6th and 7th is awkward to sing.

Named for harmony: it exists so that minor keys can have a dominant chord that resolves.