

The Natural Minor

Music

The minor scale formula, and the shortcut from any major scale you already know.

Natural minor is W H W W H W W — the major pattern started from its sixth degree.

W · H · W · W · H · W · W

A natural minor

The white keys, from A.

A B C D E F G A

From C major

Same notes, different home.

Start on A, its 6th

E natural minor

Shares its signature with G major.

E F  G A B C D E

THE COMMON MISTAKE

× **Expecting the natural minor to sound resolved at the end**

✓ **It does not — that is what harmonic minor fixes**

There is a whole tone between the 7th and the tonic, so nothing pulls home.

Also called the Aeolian mode. The two names describe the same seven notes.