

### Major scales (Ionian)

All major scales consist of the pattern: **W W h W W W h**

**C Major** is the scale that has no sharps or flats and is the starting point for the circle of 5ths

### Minor scales (Aeolian)

All minor scales consist of the pattern: **W h W W h W W**

**a minor** is the scale that has no sharps or flats and is the starting point for the circle of 5ths

### Major and minor scale differences

The only differences between the scales are three lowered or altered pitches on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> notes of the scale.

### Common questions:

Does the order of sharps and flats change for minor keys? No, the process is the same.

What is the purpose of minor keys? There are many reasons for minor keys; here are a few:

1. The sound and tonal structure is different
2. Creating moods and color of the composition
3. Before there were any key signatures, all scales were modes or church modes (still used today, but not as common)

### Three minor scales

**Natural or pure minor** – the scale is played without any accidentals outside the key signature

**Harmonic minor** – the seventh scale degree (or note) is raised up a half step and an accidental is placed on this note only; include the key signature.

**Melodic minor** – the sixth and seventh notes are raised up a half step ascending and brought back to their “natural or pure state” when descending; include the key signature

So what is the reason for different minor scales?

It creates a different tonal structure, moods and was commonly practiced before music was notated.

### Relative minor and Major keys

Each minor key shares a key signature with a Major key. A minor key is called the *relative minor* of the major key that has the same key signature. Even though they have the same key signature, a minor key and its *relative major* sound very different. They have different tonal centers, and each will feature melodies, harmonies, and chord progressions built around their (different) tonal centers or structures.

How to figure out which Major keys share the same key signature as the minor:

There are eight notes in the Major scale. The sixth note in any Major scale represents the relative minor; it is that simple!

<b>C Major Scale:</b>	C	D	E	F	G	<b>A</b>	B	C
	1	2	3	4	5	<b>6</b>	7	8