

## MODULE 3: FINDING THE MINOR CHORDS ON THE CSHARPENER

### A Refresher from Module 1 about finding and naming the Minor Chords

(You can skip this if you have remembered what you read in Module 1).

Looking at Photo 1 below, all the chords on this face are Minor chords. If the slide is inserted to show the Minor face uppermost, then all the chords are 'something' Minor chords. Remember, 'something' is the lettered name of the chord. (The same rules apply as for the Major chords: always look at the colour of the arches and match the Track's coloured musical note with the coloured arch above the hole on the Slide. The neutral is when the Slide and Track align at the Nut (N)).



PHOTO 1: The CSharpener in the neutral position showing D Minor chords

## Finding D Minor Chords

When the CSharpener is in the neutral position with the Minor face facing uppermost, D Minor chords are shown. The root note is the note that matches the colour of the arches of the group in the photos above. At Fret 2 the group of holes are **red-arched** and the **red musical note** is **D** (under the **red arch**) forming **red D Minor**. I think most uke clubbers play D Minor like this, leaving the A string open. This works for D Minor but the red spot on the blue arch may well be needed as one moves this group along the fretboard to form other chords.

Without moving the Slide, and looking down the Slide towards the soundhole, you encounter **blue D Minor** at Fret 7 where the **blue arch** is over the **blue D** note. Further down you encounter **green D Minor** at Fret 10 where you see **green D** note under the **green arch** of this group.

These are all playable shapes and by moving the Slide, you will find all the Minor chords and their inversions.

In summary, D Minor chords can be found at Frets 2, 7, 10 and 14 when the Slide is in the neutral position.

## Finding Other Minor Chords

### The E Minor Chord

Move the Slide two clicks down, towards the soundhole (i.e. down the Track), as in Photo 2, and you should find yourself discovering a new chord, E Minor.

Match the coloured arch with the colour of the note on the Track: the **red musical note E** matches the **red arch** of this group at Fret 4 and so this is E Minor. This is the commonly played version of E Minor on the ukulele.

Other inversions of the E Minor chords are found at Fret 9, Fret 12 and at Fret 16.

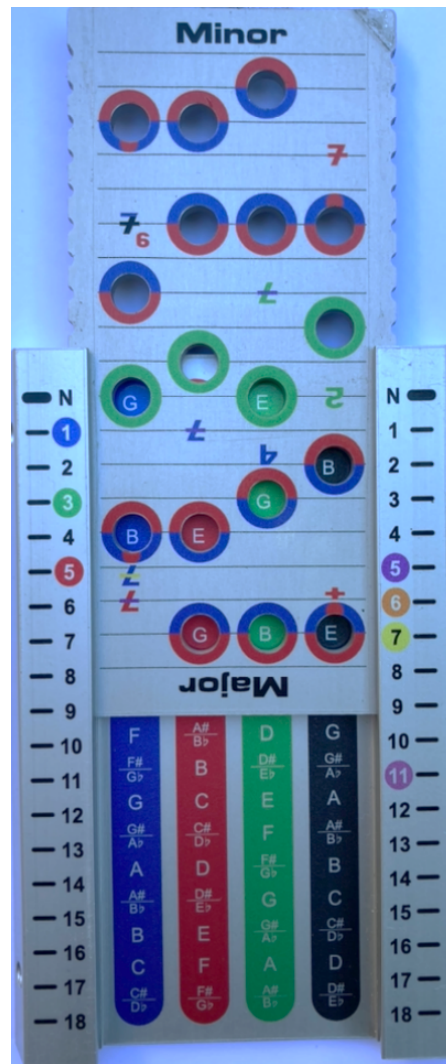


PHOTO 2: The Slide positioned to find E Minor chords



PHOTO 3: The finger positions for the red E Minor chord

## Finding F# Minor Chords

There are 2 ways to identify the F# Minor chords depending in whether you move the Slide up or down the Track.

If you move the Slide 8 clicks up, you find a **green F# Minor chord** (**green arch** over **green F# note**) at Fret 2. This F# Minor is often played at ukulele clubs. Another (red) F# Minor chord is shown at Fret 6.

You can also find F# Minor chords, moving the slide 4 clicks down from the neutral position until the **red arch** is over the **F# note** on the G string at Fret 6, as in Photo 4. This displays the inversions of the F# Minor chord. A blue F# Minor chord is also found at Fret 11, but you have to move the Slide 12 clicks down the Track to find it.



PHOTO 4: The CSharpener showing F# Minor chords



## Finding A Minor Chords

Move the Slide five clicks up from the neutral position as shown in Photo 5. You now see how to play A Minor chords.

The **blue arch** matches the **blue note** at Fret 2 to show **blue A Minor**. This is often the way to play the A Minor chord with one finger and 3 open strings. Easy!

Inversions of the A Minor chords are now displayed at the Fret 5 and Fret 9. Playing these A Minor chords is a bit more difficult because all the strings need to be covered and may take a bit of practice.



PHOTO 5: The CSharpener showing the A Minor chords



**PHOTO 6: The finger positions for the green A Minor chord**



**PHOTO 7: The finger positions for the red A Minor chord**

## Finding B $\flat$ Minor Chords

Move the Slide four clicks up from the neutral position until the **blue arch** is over the **blue A note** at Fret 3 (see Photo 8). Inversions of the B $\flat$  Minor chord are now displayed. Many ukulele players choose to play B $\flat$  Minor chord as the blue chord. Another way of playing B $\flat$  Minor chord is using the **green group** at Fret 6 and the **red B $\flat$  Minor** at Fret 10 is very useful too.



PHOTO 8: The CSharpener showing the B $\flat$  Minor chords

## Finding B Minor Chords

Move the Slide three clicks up from the neutral position until the **green arch** is over the **green B note** at Fret 7. Inversions of the B Minor chord are now displayed, as shown in Photo 9.



PHOTO 9: The CSharpener showing the B Minor chords

The **blue B Minor** chord is shown at Fret 4 with **green B Minor** at Fret 7 and **red B Minor** at Fret 11.

## Other Minor Chords

As you move the Slide around, you will find other chords such as G Minor, C Minor and C# Minor. See Table 1 below.



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

To test yourself on Minor chords, take the Slide out of the Track and pick a Minor chord out of the ether...say C Minor.

Now find the C Minor chords.

Tips and hints: Use the **green column** to locate the green C note. (I find the green column displays all the notes most clearly for me- others may want to use other coloured columns). Put the Slide into the Track with the Minor face up. Now move the Slide so that the **green arch** is above the **green C note** you had identified earlier. This finds the green C Minor chord and all the other C Minor chords along the fretboard too...Magic!

You should see C Minor chords at Fret 5, Fret 8 and Fret 12. [Note: Playing up the fretboard (towards the soundhole) is handy when the melody notes are up there but you should always be in tune and don't bend the string or it won't sound great. It needs quite a bit of practice.]

So far you have seen how most of the common Minor chords are found on the CSharpener: A, B $\flat$ , B, C, D, E and F $\sharp$ .

The others (C $\sharp$ , E $\flat$ , F and G) are there for you to find by moving the Slide up and down. I often play **green A $\flat$  Minor** at Fret 4, **red E $\flat$  Minor** at Fret 3, **red F Minor** at Fret 5 and **red F $\sharp$  Minor** at Fret 6.

## Summary

With the Minor face up, the red, blue and green coloured arched groups display the Minor chords. As you move the Slide up and down the Track, you can find all 12 Minor chords and their inversions and identify their root notes and the notes in each chord.

**Table 1: Slide position to locate Minor Chords and their inversions**

Minor chords	Moving the slide (Minor face up) from the neutral position	
	No of clicks up Slide (Fret where root note is found)	No. of clicks down Slide (Fret where root note is found)
<b>A<math>\flat</math></b>	<b>6</b> (Frets <b>4, 8</b> )	<b>6</b> (Frets <b>8, 13, 16</b> )
<b>A</b>	<b>5</b> (Fret <b>5, 9, 2</b> )	<b>7</b> (Frets <b>9, 14, 17</b> )
<b>B<math>\flat</math></b>	<b>4</b> (Frets <b>6, 10, 3</b> )	<b>8</b> (Frets <b>10, 15, 18</b> )
<b>B</b>	<b>3</b> (Frets <b>7, 4, 11</b> )	<b>9</b> (Frets <b>11, 16</b> )
<b>C</b>	<b>2</b> (Frets <b>8, 5, 12</b> )	<b>10</b> (Frets <b>12, 17</b> )
<b>C<math>\sharp</math></b>	<b>1</b> (Frets <b>9, 6, 1, 13</b> )	<b>11</b> (Frets <b>13, 18</b> )
<b>D</b>	<b>0</b> (Frets <b>10, 7, 14</b> )	<b>12</b> (Frets <b>14</b> )
<b>E<math>\flat</math></b>	<b>11</b> (Fret <b>3</b> )	<b>1</b> (Frets <b>11, 3, 8</b> )
<b>E</b>	<b>10</b> (Fret <b>4</b> )	<b>2</b> (Frets <b>12, 4, 9, 16</b> )
<b>F</b>	<b>9</b> (Frets <b>1, 5</b> )	<b>3</b> (Frets <b>13, 5, 10, 17</b> )
<b>F<math>\sharp</math></b>	<b>8</b> (Frets <b>2, 6</b> )	<b>4</b> (Frets <b>14, 6, 11, 18</b> )
<b>G</b>	<b>7</b> (Frets <b>3, 7</b> )	<b>5</b> (Frets <b>15, 7, 12</b> )

The choice of which direction (up or down the fretboard) one might go to find a chord, is governed by how easy it is to form the chord that fits in with the melody and sounds good.





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