

Major and Natural Minor Scales

Below we see a MAJOR SCALE labeled with solfege syllables (Do, Re, Mi). Notice that a MAJOR SCALE starts and ends on DO. We would say that DO is the TONIC, or RESTING TONE of this scale. Practice playing and singing this scale.

♩ = 105

Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do

We can create a different sound if we keep the same notes, but choose a different solfege syllable as our testing tone. Below, we have kept the same notes, but now we are starting and ending our scale on LA. Practice playing and singing this scale.

La Ti Do Re Mi Fa So La

A scale that starts and ends on LA is called a NATURAL MINOR SCALE. Below, we will review our 12 Major scales followed by their related Natural Minor Scale.

As you practice these scales, notice that the MAJOR SCALE (right side) and NATURAL MINOR SCALE (left side) use the same exact key signature, they just start and end on a different note in the scale. Because they share the same key signature, we call them RELATED.

MAJOR SCALE

NATURAL MINOR SCALE

1

C A

Do La

2

F D

Do La

3

B \flat G

Do La

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Clarinet 2

2

MAJOR SCALE

NATURAL MINOR SCALE

4

E_b C

Do La

5

A_b F

Do La

6

D_b Bb

Do La

7

G_b Eb

Do La

8

B G#

Do La

9

E C#

Do La

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Clarinet 2

3

MAJOR SCALE

NATURAL MINOR SCALE

10

A F#

Do La

This exercise shows the major and natural minor scales for the key of A. The major scale (A) is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are A, B, C#, D, E, F#, G#, and A. The natural minor scale (F#) is written on the same staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are F#, G, A, B, C, D, E, and F#. The exercise is divided into two measures by a double bar line. The first measure contains the major scale, and the second measure contains the natural minor scale. The starting note 'Do' is labeled below the first note of each scale.

11

D B

Do La

This exercise shows the major and natural minor scales for the key of D. The major scale (D) is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, and D. The natural minor scale (B) is written on the same staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are B, C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. The exercise is divided into two measures by a double bar line. The first measure contains the major scale, and the second measure contains the natural minor scale. The starting note 'Do' is labeled below the first note of each scale.

12

G E

Do La

This exercise shows the major and natural minor scales for the key of G. The major scale (G) is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, and G. The natural minor scale (E) is written on the same staff with a key signature of no sharps or flats. The notes are E, F, G, A, B, C, D, and E. The exercise is divided into two measures by a double bar line. The first measure contains the major scale, and the second measure contains the natural minor scale. The starting note 'Do' is labeled below the first note of each scale.