

Minor Scales & Related Chords

By Dr. Keith Cooper, guitar professor

The minor scale patterns presented include proper fingerings underneath the tablature and are in C. All five minor scale patterns are taught at multiple universities as they cover the fretboard, provide more territory in a single key, and are movable - meaning the patterns can be transposed anywhere on the fretboard, leading to applying all 12 minor keys. When practicing the scale fingerings, it is critical to make connections with the relevant chord shapes, taking note of proper fingering positions and related chord inversions.

Pattern 1: Musical notation for C minor scale (3rd position) with a position shift at the 6th fret. Fingerings: 3-5, 1-3-5, 1-3-5, 3-4-6, 3-4-6-8. Chord diagrams: Cm (3fr), Cm/E \flat (5fr), Cm/G (8fr).

Pattern 2: Musical notation for C minor scale (3rd position) with a position shift at the 7th fret. Fingerings: 1-3-4, 1-3-4, 1-2, 4-6-8, 4-6-8. Chord diagrams: Cm/G (3fr), Cm/G (5fr).

Pattern 3: Musical notation for C minor scale (3rd position) with a position shift at the 7th fret. Fingerings: 4-5-6-8, 5-6-8, 5, 7-4-6-8, 4-6. Chord diagrams: Cm (5fr), Cm (8fr).

Cm

8fr.

Cm/Eb

10fr.

Cm/G

13fr.

C Minor Triads on the Top-Three Strings

Cm

3fr.

Cm

8fr.

Cm

11fr.