

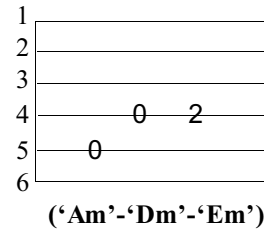
Minor Keys

All of chord progressions from previous lesson featured the exclusive use of major chords, which produce arrangements with a 'relaxing' or 'happy' mood or tone. With minor chords, the same three-chord concept can be applied. The following sections will show how the '*Three-Chord Method*' can be applied for *minor keys*.

Three-Chord Method: Minor Keys

To determine the three primary chords for any *minor key*, the same '*Three-Chord Method*' can be applied, with the only difference being the three notes found using the method will correspond to minor chords instead of major chords. For example, the same 'A', 'D', and 'E' notes that correspond to the Key of 'A' ('A', 'D', & 'E') are the same three notes that will correspond to the Key of 'A' Minor ('Am', 'Dm', & 'Em').

Key of 'A' Minor



Progressions in Minor Keys

When comparing major and minor chords (*happy vs serious*), the same contrast in mood or tone can be heard when comparing *progressions* in major and *minor keys*. To compare the difference in mood between the Key of 'A' Minor and the Key of 'A' Major, strum each progression to the right.

Comparing Progressions

Key of 'A' Minor Progression

Am - Dm - Em - Am - Am - Dm - Em - Am

Key of 'A' Major Progression

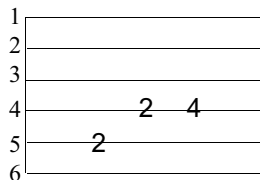
A - D - E - A - A - D - E - A

*strum each chord: 'down, down-up-up-down' 2x each

Other Minor Keys

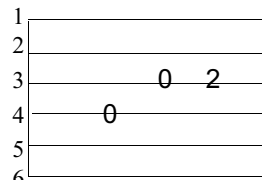
The Key of 'A' Minor is the only minor key made up exclusively of 'open' minor chords. In order to play progressions in any other minor key, it will be essential to know how to barre *moveable minor chord shapes* (*Chord Vocabulary*). Getting acclimated to fretting and shifting between open and barre minor chords within the same progression will initially be a challenge. Below are examples of applying the '*Three-Chord Method*' and strumming basic progressions in the Key of 'B' Minor and the Key of 'D' Minor.

Key of 'B' Minor



(Bm) - (Em) - (F#m)

Key of 'D' Minor



(Dm) - (Gm) - (Am)

Progression Examples

Bm - Em - F#m - Bm (repeat)

Dm - Gm - Am - Dm (repeat)

24 Total Keys

All twelve chromatic notes correspond to twelve major and twelve minor chords. With the '*Three-Chord Method*', any three-chord progression can be derived from each chord. The result is **24 potential keys** (12 Major, 12 Minor) and progressions that can be determined using just a guitar.