



The Pentatonic Minor Scale -

The pentatonic minor scale is a 5 note scale (pent = 5... think pentagon). To find the notes of a pentatonic minor scale, we take the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th degrees of a natural minor scale. This is demonstrated below in the key of A minor.

A Natural Minor Scale -

A B C D E F G

A Pentatonic Minor Scale -

A C D E G

The pentatonic minor scale is used extensively in many styles of music such as blues, rock, heavy metal, funk and jazz. It is the scale that is most commonly used to improvise over a 12-bar blues sequence and it is also very important for creating riffs and solos in rock and funk music.

Every natural minor scale has a relative major scale. This means that a major and minor scale exist that contain exactly the same notes. Below, you can see the A minor scale with its relative major scale (C major). The corresponding notes are colour coded.

A Natural Minor Scale - A B C D E F G

C Major Scale - C D E F G A B

The A Pentatonic minor scale and C pentatonic major scale are also relative to each other. They contain exactly the same notes.

A Pentatonic Minor Scale - A C D E G

C Pentatonic Major Scale - C D E G A