

# TONIC MINOR    TONIC MAJOR

When a *minor scale* and a *major scale* share the same TONIC (I), they are called TONIC MINOR and TONIC MAJOR.

ex. a *minor* is the TONIC MINOR of A *major*; A *major* is the TONIC MAJOR of a *minor*.

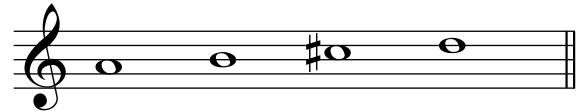
The word "minor" means **smaller** and this is where the *minor scale* gets its name: in the *minor scale* the interval from the tonic (I) to the mediant (III) is a **half step smaller** compared to the interval from I to III in the *major scale*.

Exercise:

1. Play the lower tetrachord of a *minor scale*, then;



play the lower tetrachord of A *major scale*.



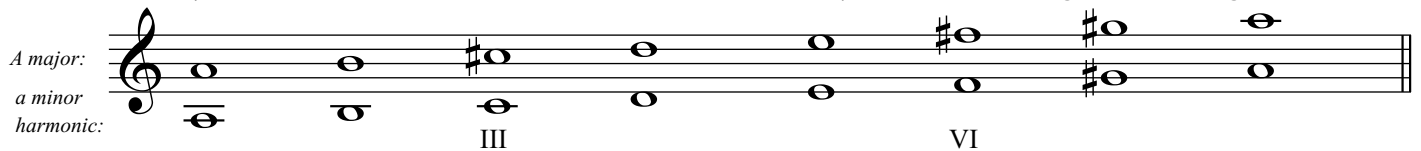
2. For the above tetrachords, compare the whole and half step patterns.

The III degree of the scale identifies a scale as being either *major* or *minor*.

A Comparison of the TONIC *minor scale* to the TONIC *major scale*:

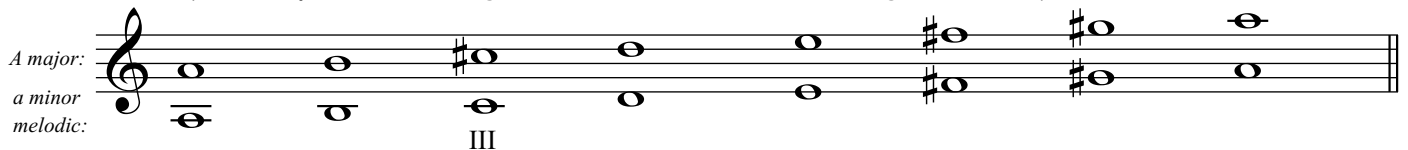
Exercise:

1. Compare A *major scale* (voice 1) to a *minor harmonic* (voice 2). Play each scale ascending and descending.



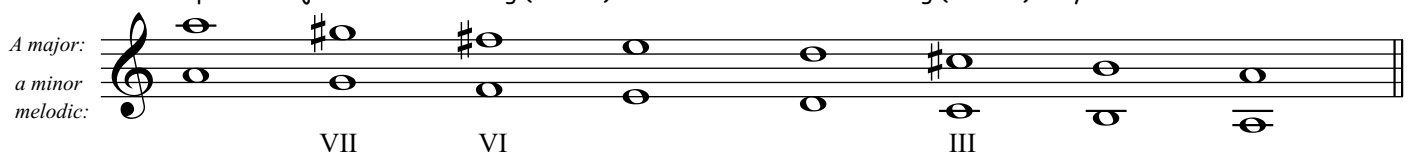
In the *ascending and descending harmonic minor scale* the 3rd and 6th notes are **one half step lower** than in the TONIC *major scale*.

2. Compare A *major scale* ascending (voice 1) to a *minor melodic* ascending (voice 2). Play each scale.



In the *ascending melodic minor scale* the 3rd note is **one half step lower** than in the TONIC *major scale*. note: all the other notes are identical; hence the name "melodic"

3. Compare A *major scale* descending (voice 1) to a *minor melodic* descending (voice 2). Play each scale.



In the *descending melodic minor scale* the 3rd, 6th and 7th notes are **one half step lower** than in the TONIC *major scale*.