

The Harmonic Minor Scale

Another commonly used minor scale in jazz is the *harmonic minor* scale. It has an attractive, almost Middle-Eastern or Spanish-like quality to it.

Definition: The harmonic minor scale is simply a major scale with lowered 3rd and lowered 6th tones.

Examples:

	1	2	♭3	4	5	♭6	7	8
A Harmonic Minor Scale:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G [#]	A
	1	2	♭3	4	5	♭6	7	8
B Harmonic Minor Scale:	B	C [#]	D	E	F [#]	G	A [#]	B
	1	2	♭3	4	5	♭6	7	8
D Harmonic Minor Scale:	D	E	F	G	A	B ^b	C [#]	D

The chord tones in the scale are:

1	♭3	5	7	9	11	♭13
				(2)	(4)	(♭6 or ♯5)

And as usual, various chords built from these chord tones can take the scale. The most common are:

Name	Formula	Symbol
Minor-Major 7th	1 ♭3 5 7	m ^Δ 7 or - ^Δ 7
Minor-Major 9th	1 ♭3 5 7 9	m ^Δ 9 or - ^Δ 9
Minor add 9th	1 ♭3 5 9	m/9 or -add9 or m add9
Minor	1 ♭3 5	m or -
Minor Augmented (or Minor Sharped 5th)	1 ♭3 ♯5	m ⁺ or - ⁺

The minor-major 7th, minor-major 9th, and minor add 9th may also have the sharp 5th instead of the regular 5th.

Actually, there are some other common chords in this (and the other) scales, but they will be discussed in the chapter on diatonic playing. As a matter of fact, the whole scale will probably prove more useful in that chapter, because that is its most common usage, so...you needn't spend much time on this scale for now. But you can at least learn the fingerings and arpeggios and a few runs. However, I'm going to leave the runs up to you here—there will be more given.

	Arpeggios				Chords	
F Harmonic Minor Scale 3	Fm⁹/9 	Fm⁹ or G			Fm 	Fm
F Harmonic Minor Scale 4	Fm⁹/9 	Fm⁹ or G			Fm⁷ 	Fm⁹ Fm
F Harmonic Minor Scale 6	Fm⁹/9 	Fm⁹ 			Fm⁹ 	
F Harmonic Minor Scale 8	Fm⁹/9 	Fm⁷ 	Fm⁹ 		Fm 7	Fm⁹
D Harmonic Minor Scale 6	Dm⁹/9 	Dm⁷ 	Dm⁹ 		Dm 	
B Harmonic Minor Scale 5	Bm⁹/9 	Bm⁹ and/or C ²	Bm⁹ 	Bm⁹ 	Bm 	Bm⁷
B Harmonic Minor Scale 6	Bm⁹/9 	Bm⁹ and/or C ²	Bm⁹ 	Bm⁹ 	Bm 	Bm⁷
B Harmonic Minor Scale 7	Bm⁹/9 	Bm⁹ and/or C ²	Bm⁹ 	Bm⁹ and/or C ²	Bm 	Bm⁹

○.....● = same note, alternate location

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Definition: The Harmonic Minor scale is simply a Major scale with **LOWERED 3RD** and **LOWERED 6th** tones.

EXAMPLES:

A HARMONIC MINOR SCALE → 1 2 b3 4 5 b6 7 8
A B C D E F G# A

B HARMONIC MINOR SCALE → 1 2 b3 4 5 b6 7 8
B C# D E F# G A# B

D HARMONIC MINOR SCALE → 1 2 b3 4 5 b6 7 8
D E F G A Bb C# D

The chord tones in the scale are:

1 b3 5 7 9 11 b13
(2) (4) (b6 or #5)

And as usual, various chords built from these chord tones can take the scale.

The most common are:

NAME	FORMULA	SYMBOL
MINOR-MAJOR 7th	1, b3, 5, 7	m ^Δ 7 or -A7
MINOR-MAJOR 9th	1, b3, 5, 7, 9	m ^Δ 9 or -A9
MINOR ADD 9th	1, b3, 5, 9	m/9 or -add9 or m add9
MINOR	1, b3, 5	m or -
MINOR AUGMENTED (or MINOR SHARPED 5th)	1, b3, #5	m ⁺ or -+

The m^Δ7, m^Δ9 and m/9 may also have the sharp 5th instead of the regular 5th.

Actually there are some other common chords in this (& the other) scales, but they will be discussed in the chapter on diatonic playing. As a matter of fact, the whole scale will probably prove more useful in that chapter, because that is its most common usage, so you needn't spend much time on this scale for now. But you can at least learn the fingerings + arpeggios.

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and some runs. However, I'm going to leave the runs up to you here - there will be none given.

F HARMONIC MINOR SCALE

ARPEGGIOS | **CHORDS**

Fm/9 Fm A9

Fm Fm

F HARMONIC MINOR SCALE | **ARPEGGIOS** | **CHORDS**

Fm/9 Fm A9

Fm A7 Fm/9

F HARMONIC MINOR SCALE

ARPEGGIOS | **CHORD**

Fm/9 Fm A9

Fm A9

F HARMONIC MINOR SCALE | **ARPEGGIOS** | **CHORDS**

Fm/9 Fm A7 Fm A9 Fm Fm A9

D HARMONIC MINOR SCALE

ARPEGGIOS | **CHORD**

Dm/9 Dm A7 Dm A9 Dm

D HARMONIC MINOR SCALE | **ARPEGGIOS** | **CHORDS**

Bm/9 Bm A9..... Bm

and/or C#

Bm A7

B HARMONIC MINOR SCALE

ARPEGGIOS | **CHORDS**

Bm/9 Bm A9..... Bm Bm A7

and/or C#

B HARMONIC MINOR SCALE | **ARPEGGIOS** | **CHORDS**

Bm/9 Bm A9.....

and/or C#

Bm Bm A9