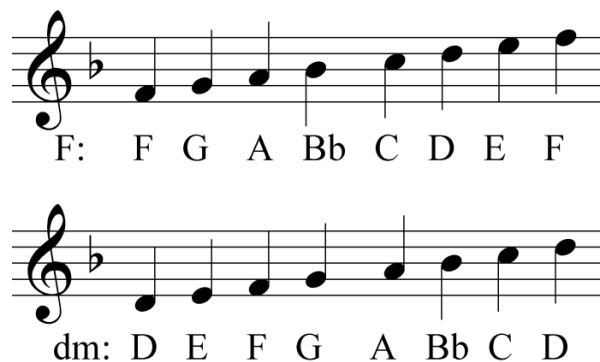




Major and Minor Relationships

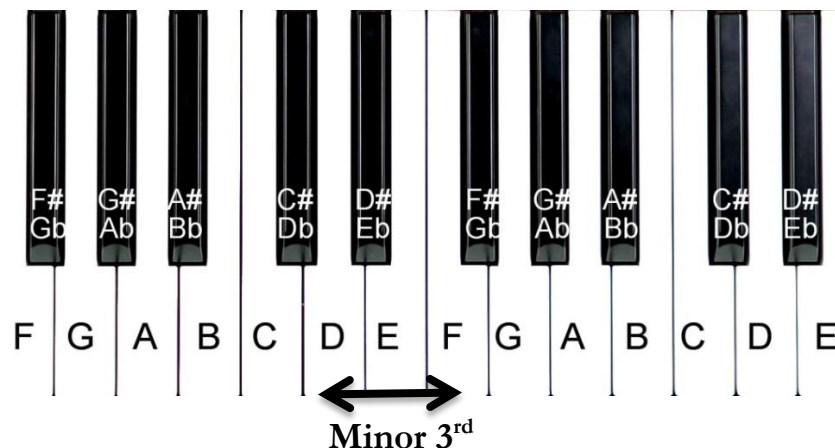
Every major key signature shares the same set of notes as its relative minor key signature. For example, the notes within the key of F major are the same set of notes found within the key of D minor (see Figure 1). The order of notes is different, but both keys have the same overall group of notes.

Figure 1. Notes within F Major and D Minor Keys



Using the keyboard below (Figure 2), you can see that the distance between the note F and the note D is three half steps or a minor third (F to E = one half step, E to D \sharp = one half step, D \sharp to D = one half step). If you begin with a major key (ex. F major), you can easily find its relative minor key by **counting down three half steps** (ex. D minor).

Figure 2. Distance from F Major to D Minor





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The chart below links each major key and its relative minor key.

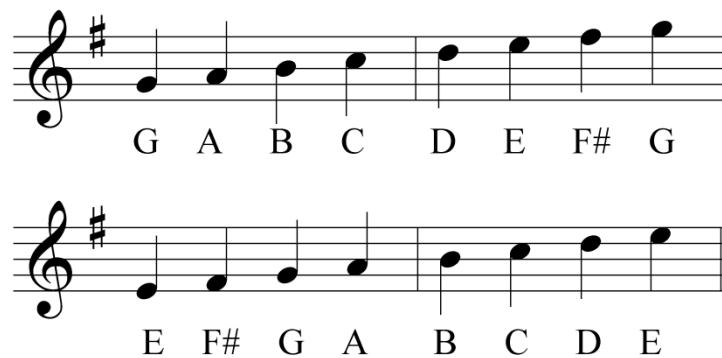
Figure 3. Major and Relative Minor Keys

Major Key	Relative Minor Key	Staff	Major Key	Relative Minor Key	Staff
C major	A minor				
F major	D minor		G major	E minor	
Bb major	G minor		D major	B minor	
Eb major	C minor		A major	F# minor	
Ab major	F minor		E major	C# minor	
Db major	Bb minor		B major	G# minor	
Gb major	Eb minor		F# major	D# minor	
Cb major	Ab minor		C# major	A# minor	



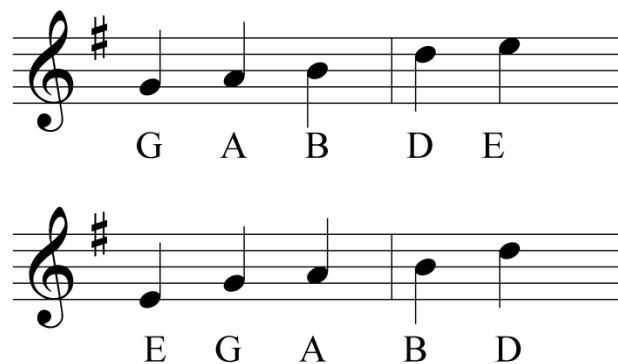
Now let's apply your knowledge of major and relative minor key signatures to **scales!** We will begin with the relationships between major scales and natural minor scales, major pentatonic scales and minor pentatonic scales, and major blues scales and minor blues scales. The notes within each major scale type are the same group of notes as the relative minor scale type. For example, the notes of the major scale are the same as the relative minor scale (see Figure 4. The **G major scale** and the **E natural minor scale** share the same group of notes).

Figure 4. Notes of the G Major Scale and the E Natural Minor Scale



Similarly, the group of notes that comprise the **G major pentatonic scale** are the same group of notes as the **E minor pentatonic scale**.

Figure 5. Notes of the G Major Pentatonic Scale and the E Minor Pentatonic Scale



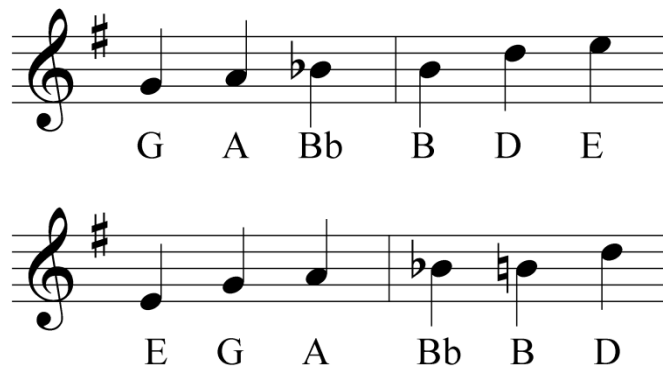


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Finally, the group of notes that comprise the **G major blues scale** are the same group of notes as the **E minor blues scale**.

Figure 6. Notes of the G Major Blues Scale and the E Minor Blues Scale



When learning different scale fingerings (or patterns) for all of the above scale types, it is helpful to think about each scale as both a major and a minor scale at the same time. Applying your music theory skills in this way will save you endless hours learning and practicing new scale fingerings!