# Minor All the Way, Major at the End

A **Picardy third** ends a minor-key passage on a **major** tonic chord. Only the third of the tonic triad is raised by one half step — the root and fifth stay the same. The passage remains in the minor key; the raised third is a cadential color, not a modulation. Am = A C E; raised third C→C♯ gives **A major**. Dm = D F A; raised F→F♯ gives **D major**. Em = E G B; raised G→G♯ gives **E major**.

## A · RAISE THE THIRD

Each row gives a minor tonic triad. Raise only the third by one half step to make the Picardy major triad. Write the chord on the staff; write each note name on the line.

Given: **Am**



→ Picardy major triad (write notes + name each note):



Given: **Dm**



→ Picardy major triad (write notes + name each note):



Given: **Em**



→ Picardy major triad (write notes + name each note):



## B · MINOR TONIC OR PICARDY THIRD?

Each chord is the final chord of a passage in the given key. Mark whether it is the diatonic minor tonic (i) or a Picardy third (I with raised 3rd).

1



Key: **A minor**

- ○ Minor tonic
- ○ Picardy third

2



Key: **A minor**

- ○ Minor tonic
- ○ Picardy third

3



Key: **D minor**

- ○ Minor tonic
- ○ Picardy third

4



Key: **E minor**

- ○ Minor tonic
- ○ Picardy third

## C · CADENCE TAILS — CIRCLE THE PICARDY CHORD

Each key shows two three-chord tails. The first ends on the minor tonic (i). The second replaces the final chord with a Picardy major (I). Circle the chord name that turns the ending into a Picardy third.

**A minor**

Minor ending: iv (Dm)–V (E)–i (Am)

iv (Dm) | V (E) | I (A major ♯3)

Picardy ending — circle the changed final chord:



**D minor**

Minor ending: iv (Gm)–V (A)–i (Dm)

iv (Gm) | V (A) | I (D major ♯3)

Picardy ending — circle the changed final chord:



**Try it**

Listen to each pair in the audio player: first the minor tonic chord, then the Picardy major. Hear how the raised third brightens the ending without changing the key. The raised third is a cadential color — the passage stays in the minor key. Write the note names for all three Picardy chords from memory, then check.

**tissimo.co/exercises/picardy-third-major-ending-of-minor** · Piano, quarter = 80

Answers · flip the page

A: Am → A major: raise C → C♯ (notes: A C♯ E) | Dm → D major: raise F → F♯ (notes: D F♯ A) | Em → E major: raise G → G♯ (notes: E G♯ B)

B: 1. Am in A minor → minor tonic | 2. A major in A minor → Picardy third | 3. D major in D minor → Picardy third | 4. Em in E minor → minor tonic

C: A minor, tail 1 (iv–V–i): final chord Am = minor tonic (not Picardy) | A minor, tail 2 (iv–V–I): final chord A major with C♯ = Picardy third — CIRCLE THIS | D minor, tail 1 (iv–V–i): final chord Dm = minor tonic (not Picardy) | D minor, tail 2 (iv–V–I): final chord D major with F♯ = Picardy third — CIRCLE THIS



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