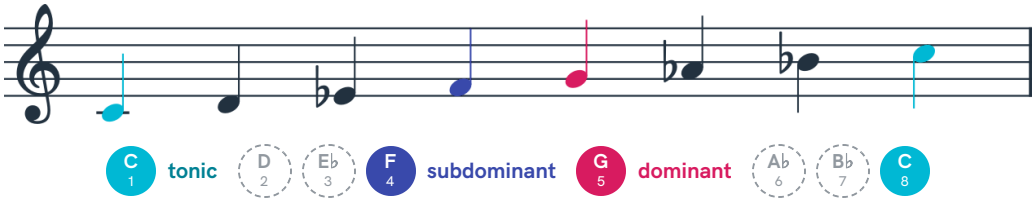
The primary chords in minor: i, iv & V

You already know the three-chord toolkit in major. Move it into **C minor** and the same journey works — with **i** and **iv** wearing minor colors, and **V still shining major**.

SAME ANCHORS, MINOR WORLD

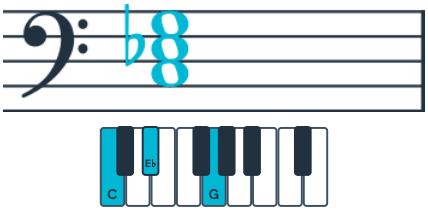


The anchors don't move when the key turns minor: degree 1 is still the **tonic**, 4 the **subdominant**, 5 the **dominant**. What changes is the scale **around** them — E♭, A♭ and B♭ shade everything darker.

THE THREE-CHORD FAMILY, IN CANDLELIGHT

i — tonic chord

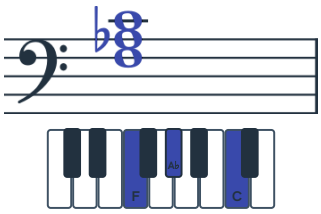
C · E♭ · G — home, in shadow



the E♭ makes home itself minor — hence the **small numeral**

iv — subdominant chord

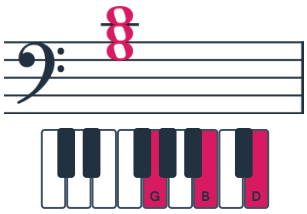
F · A♭ · C — gentle away, now minor too



carries the 6th degree's A♭

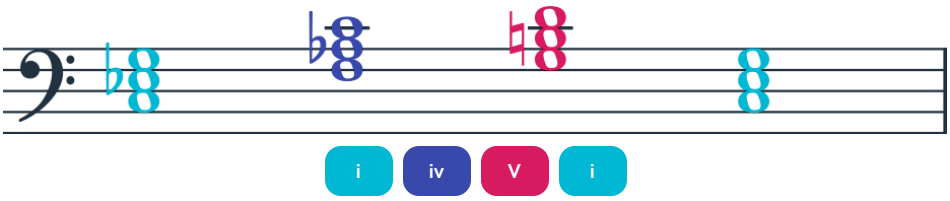
V — dominant chord

G · B♮ · D — still major!



B stays natural so the pull home stays strong — capital **V**

THE SAME JOURNEY, DARKER LIGHT



Home → gentle away → tense away → home — **i–iv–V–i**, the same journey as major, now in minor. This loop drives folk laments, tangos, film scores and a thousand pop ballads.

Try it Play the major loop C → F → G → C, then the minor loop **Cm → Fm → G → Cm** — only two keys change under your fingers (E→E♭, A→A♭), but the whole story changes. And notice the G chord is identical in both: **the dominant is the bridge between the two worlds**. All seven chords of a minor key: Handout 394.

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