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MINOR CHORD CONSTRUCTION

In this lesson we will learn how to construct the minor chord or minor triad. Learning basic music theory is not a requirement to playing the guitar but it will benefit your ability to learn guitar. If you know how the major and minor chords are constructed then you can work out how to play any chord in any position on the guitar. Let's dig in and learn how to construct the minor chord.

CHROMATIC SCALE

On guitar and most western instruments we have the chromatic scale which consists of 12 notes as follows:

A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab
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Note A Sharp and B Flat are the same note but depending on which key you are in dictates the naming convention.

MINOR SCALE

See the lesson on the minor scale at www.bitesizeguitar.com

For Example we will use the C Minor Scale

C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B		
C		D		Eb		F		G		Ab		Bb	

MINOR CHORD FORMULA

1 – 3b – 5

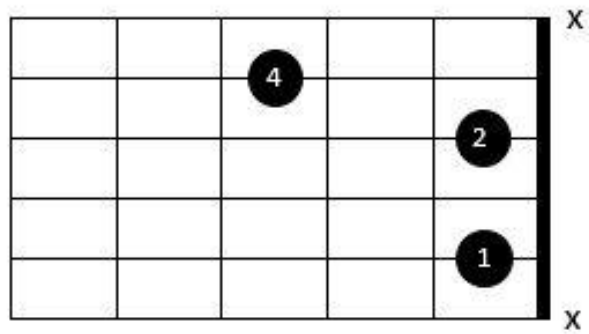
The minor chord consists of 3 notes and is therefore called a minor triad. The 1st note (Root) of the scale, 3rd note of the scale (Minor Third) and the 5th note of the scale (Perfect Fifth). Therefore the minor chord has the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes of the C Minor scale.

1 – 3b – 5 for the C Minor chord is the C – Eb – F notes.

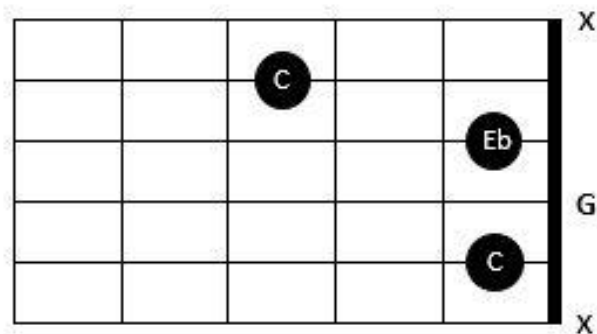
Other chords apart from the triad chords generally add or subtract notes to this basic formula. For example Min 7th chords add the 7th note of the minor scale to the Minor Triad chord (1 – b3 – 5 – b7)

The C Minor Triad chord is presented on the following page.

C MINOR CHORD



As shown above the open position C Minor chord has 4 notes, one note on each of the 4 strings. The Minor Triad only has the 3 notes (1 – 3b – 5) therefore one of the notes is doubled as shown below.



So the open position C Minor chord has 4 notes, 2 C notes, 1 Eb note and 1 G note.

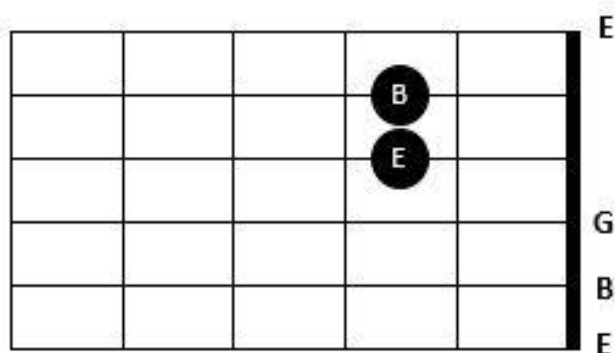
Every other Minor Triad is constructed using the same 1 – 3b – 5 formula.

E MINOR CHORD

Another example is presented with the E Minor Triad.

E Minor Scale **E F# G A B C D**

Therefore using the Minor Triad formula 1 – 3b – 5 gives notes E – G – B. In the open position the E Minor Triad is fretted as follows:



So the open position E Minor chord has 6 notes, 3 E notes, 2 B notes and 1 G note.

MINOR TRIAD CHORD NOTES

1 (ROOT)	3	5
C	E _b	G
C# / D_b	E	G#
D	F	A
D# / E_b	F#	A#
E	G	B
F	A _b	C
F# / G_b	A	C#
G	B _b	D
G# / A_b	B	D#
A	C	E
A# / B_b	C#	E#
B	D	F#