

Chords From Major to Minor

If you've ever heard this type of chord change you know how great this sounds, and I want to show you the coolest combinations available.

Each diagram below will show (if possible) the open Major chord form followed by the open minor chord form. Then, I will be showing you the barred form of the same chords.

You'll begin noticing a pattern where each chord only changes one note in order to move the chord from a Major to minor (and vice versa). I avoided going too high in pitch on the fretboard as I'm sure you're using an acoustic, so instead, starting with the D, E, and F chords I began using the A string as the root instead.

	A		Am		A		Am	
T	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5
A	2	2	1	1	5	5	5	5
A	2	2	2	2	6	6	5	5
B	2	2	2	2	7	7	7	7
B	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	7
					5	5	5	5

	B		Bm		B		Bm	
T	2	2	2	2	7	7	7	7
A	4	4	3	3	7	7	7	7
A	4	4	4	4	8	8	7	7
B	4	4	4	4	9	9	9	9
B	2	2	2	2	9	9	9	9
					7	7	7	7

	C		Cm		C		Cm	
T	0	0	3	3	8	8	8	8
A	0	0	5	5	9	9	8	8
B	3	3	3	3	10	10	10	10
					8	8	8	8

	D		Dm		D		Dm	
T	2	2	1	1	5	5	5	5
A	2	2	2	2	7	7	7	7
B	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5
					x	x	x	x

	E		Em		E		Em	
T	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	7
A	1	1	0	0	9	9	8	8
B	2	2	2	2	9	9	9	9
	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	7
					x	x	x	x

	F		Fm		F		Fm	
T	1	1	1	1	8	8	8	8
A	1	1	1	1	10	10	9	9
B	2	2	1	1	10	10	10	10
	3	3	3	3	10	10	10	10
	3	3	3	3	8	8	8	8
	1	1	1	1	x	x	x	x

	G		Gm		G		Gm	
T	3	3	x	x	3	3	3	3
A	0	0	3	3	4	4	3	3
B	2	2	1	1	5	5	5	5
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Exercise Options:

1. Switch from Major to minor and instead start with the minor to Major. See if those work. Some sound great. Others not so much.
2. Create progressions based SOLELY on the way each Major to minor (or minor to Major) sounds. Since we are using all of the chords (minus the sharps/flats) you could create an entire song using ONLY Majors and minors.

My personal favorites:

I LOVE the way the C to Cm sounds as well as the F to Fm. I use these all the time.

Final Thoughts

It might not seem like a large tutorial, but part of the work needed in this section relies upon you. I urge you to experiment with various chord placements as well as the changes from Major to minor (and vice versa) because simply changing ONE note can mean a world of difference. This is also a great exercise in remembering where each chord is found on the guitar without moving too far around on the fretboard.