Natural Minor Scales and Arpeggios
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The following scales are included for reference only. They are not intended as part of the exercise routine. The same applies to the arpeggios. Work begins with the “Five-note Patterns.”

Scales

A Minor

D Minor

E Minor

G Minor

B Minor

C Minor

F-sharp Minor

F Minor

C-sharp Minor

B-flat Minor

G-sharp Minor

E-flat Minor

D-sharp Minor

A-flat Minor

A-sharp Minor

Triads

A Minor

D Minor

E Minor

G Minor

B Minor

C Minor

F-sharp Minor

F Minor

C-sharp Minor

B-flat Minor

G-sharp Minor

E-flat Minor

D-sharp Minor

A-flat Minor

A-sharp Minor
Practice Sequence

Do the following in a selected key then move to next key.
1. Full range scale
2. Additive triad exercise bottom up
3. Additive triad exercise top down

The 5-note and 9-note exercises need not be applied to natural minor scales; they are the same as those completed with the major scale studies.

Full-range Scales

Use a different articulation each time a scale is practiced. Eventually, through work on numerous keys, all the patterns below should be mastered.

Full-range scales are not written in all keys for natural minor. One may refer to the full-range scales from the major key studies. It is intended that students internalize the concept. Simply apply the minor key signature to the major scales.

To find the appropriate key signature:
1. From major descend a minor 3rd to determine the relative minor root (1st note of the scale).
2. From the root of the intended minor scale ascend a minor 3rd to determine the appropriate key signature.
3. Parallel major and minor change keys but have the same tonic (1st note of the scale).

For example:

C Major

C Natural Minor (parallel: same root but different key signature)

A Natural Minor (relative, different root but same key signature)
Additive Triad Exercise

Student must internalize (memorize) scales, arpeggios, and other patterns. Only an example of the “Additive Triad Exercise” is given below. It is expected that the concept be applied to twelve keys.

Start on the lowest triad note possible.
Add one note per repetition as below.
Convert to 8th notes if necessary.
Use a metronome.

Example: E-flat Minor

Start on the highest triad note possible within the normal range of the saxophone. This exercise can be applied to developing the altissimo register.
Add one note per repetition as below.

This exercise can also be done with triplets.