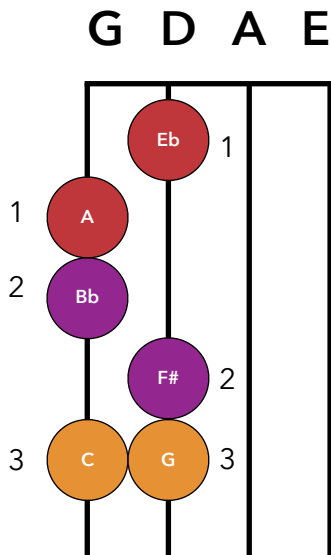


G Harmonic Minor Scale

The Harmonic Minor Finger Pattern



All the scales that you have learnt so far have been major scales. Now that you know Finger Pattern 2, you can learn a minor scale.

There are three types of minor scale: natural, melodic and harmonic. We are going to learn the **harmonic minor** pattern first.

In the **G minor scale**, we use Finger Pattern 2 on the G string, then Finger Pattern 1 on the D string, but with the 1st finger extended back.

The musical notation shows the G Harmonic Minor scale in 2/4 time. The scale is written on a single staff. The first four notes (G, Ab, A, Bb) are marked with 'F.P. 2' and fingerings 0, 1, 2, 3. The next four notes (B, C, C#, D) are marked with 'F.P. 1' and fingerings 0, 1, 2, 3. The final four notes (D, Eb, E, G) are marked with 'F.P. 2' and fingerings 0, 3, 2, 1, 0. The notes B and C are marked 'back stretch' and C and C# are marked 'stretch back'.

Each minor scale shares its key signature with a major scale. You can always find a minor scale's 'relative' major scale by counting up the note names by 3 semitones.

G → Ab → A → Bb

Therefore, G minor shares a key signature with Bb major. They both have **two flats**, Bb and Eb, which look like this:



Activities

- 1) **Repeat** the scale until you have **memorised** the finger patterns.
- 2) **Play** the scale with separate bows, as written above.

- 3) **Play** the scale with slurred quavers, e.g.:



- 4) **Use** words to create different rhythm patterns for your scale, e.g. 'straw-ber-ry, rasp-ber-ry'