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Ten Minute Tech
Relative Major and Minor

The Relative Major or Minor sounds quite complicated but let's look at it using the guitar, as what we hear is often easier to understand than what we read!

Below is the **C major scale** (two 8ves). There are no sharps or flats in this scale. It is all the white notes on the piano. If we play a C chord then the C major scale, the sound is very recognisable. People often associate this sound with a "happy" sound (though many sad songs have been written in Major keys).

Musical notation for the C major scale (first 8 notes). The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The scale is written in a single line. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with six strings. The strings are labeled T (Treble), A, B, and B. The tablature shows the following fret numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1, 0.

Musical notation for the C major scale (last 8 notes). The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The scale is written in a single line. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with six strings. The strings are labeled T (Treble), A, B, and B. The tablature shows the following fret numbers: 3, 0, 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 8.

Now, we will play notes from the same scale but we will start on the 6th step of the major scale (in music we include the notes that we start and finish on).

C D E F G **A**. So we will start and finish on the note A.

Below is the **A minor scale** (one 8ve). (Also known as the Aeolian or Natural Minor Scale).

Play the A minor chord followed by the A minor Scale.

This sounds "sad" or "Spanish" to most people. It also has no sharps or flats- it is the same set of notes as above but just with different emphasis. That is why we call them Relative Major or Relative Minor.

Musical notation for the A minor scale (one octave). The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The scale is written in a single line. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with six strings. The strings are labeled T (Treble), A, B, and B. The tablature shows the following fret numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 3, 0, 1, 3, 5, 3, 1, 0, 3, 1, 0, 2.