

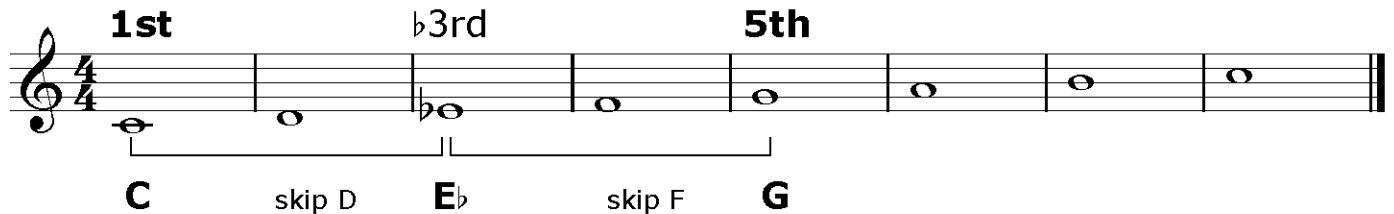
## Building Block No. 4: Finding the Fast Way to Double What You Already Know **How to Form a Minor Triad**

### **The Major Triad:**

In the last lesson, you learned that the **major triad** is a chord made up of three (3) specific notes that are in the major scale.

### **The Minor Triad:**

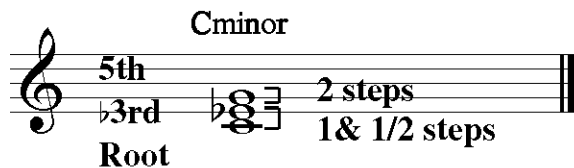
The fastest and easiest way to figure out the notes in a **minor chord** is to take the same three notes from the major scale and lower the 3rd note of the scale by one half step.



What if you don't know how to form the major triad or the major scale that has the same letter names as the chord?

There's a simple solution: use the **step** method

(see Building Block No. 1: Unlocking the Secret System of the Black & White Keys: Half Steps & Whole Steps).



Here's the exciting news!

You now have a fast and easy way to **double** what you already know.

Here are the rules:

To change a **major chord** into a **minor chord**, you **lower** the **3rd** by one **half step**.

Here is an example:

**D major = D F# A**

**D minor = D F A**

To change a **minor chord** into a **major chord**, you **raise** the **3rd** by one **half step**.

Here is an example:

**E♭ minor = E♭ G♭ B♭**

**E♭ major = E♭ G B♭**

**Tip:** There are several ways **minor chords** are identified in sheet music, but they all mean the same thing. (Note: Chords with flat names can be major, minor or something else. Flat in a chord name does **not** mean that it is minor.)

Here are three examples:

**Cminor = Cm = Cmin = C-**

**B♭minor = B♭m = B♭min = B♭-**

**F#minor = F#m = F#min = F#-**