

Seventh Chords in Natural Minor Keys

by John Falstrom

INTRO: As a Bassist, you must eventually play and understand Seventh Chords on your Bass. Here's how they appear in all is Natural Minor Keys:

Seventh Chords in Natural Minor Keys

Here are the seven chords in natural minor keys as seventh chords:

Chords in Natural Minor Key	Seventh Chord Names	Seventh Chord Types
i	The i7 Chord	Minor 7 th
ii ^o	The ii ^o 7 Chord	Half Diminished 7 th
bIII	The bIII ^{maj} 7, Chord	Major 7 th
iv	The iv7 Chord	Minor 7 th
v	The v7 Chord	Minor 7 th
bVI	The bVI ^{maj} 7 Chord	Major 7 th
bVII	The bVII7 Chord	Dominant 7 th

What dictates the seventh chord types is that the 7th note from each chord must be in the natural minor key.

Therefore:

The i, iv, and v are minor 7th chords.

The bIII and the bVI are major 7th chords.

The bVII is a dominant 7th chord.

The ii^o is a half diminished 7th chord.

Seventh Chords in Natural Minor Keys

Playing Seventh Chords in Natural Minor Keys – Arpeggio Style

Here is a chart example of how to play arpeggio forms on each of the seven seventh chords in a natural minor key:

<u>Seventh Chords in Natural Minor Key</u>	<u>Arpeggio Form</u>
i7	R, b3, 5, b7, 8, b7, 5, b3, R
iii7	R, b3, b5, b7, 8, b7, b5, b3, R
bIII ^{maj} 7	R, 3, 5, 7, 8, 7, 5, 3, R
iv7	R, b3, 5, b7, 8, b7, 5, b3, R
v7	R, b3, 5, b7, 8, b7, 5, b3, R
bVI ^{maj} 7	R, 3, 5, 7, 8, 7, 5, 3, R
bVII7	R, 3, 5, b7, 8, b7, 5, 3, R

There is an infinite amount of different ways to play arpeggio forms on the seventh chords in a natural minor key (e.g., inversions, notes below the root, different rhythm combinations, etc.).

Play arpeggio forms on the seven seventh chords in each natural minor key; circle of fifths order.

Note: Each one of the seven seventh chords in a natural minor key could always be altered. Borrowed seventh chords are also used.

Summary: Seventh Chords are just as important as Basic Chords. I would definitely play / memorize and analyze all seven seventh chords in each of the 15 Natural Minor Keys --- without doubt.

John Falstrom