



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:

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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 7th |
| ii ^o | The ii ^o 7 Chord | Half Diminished 7th |
| bIII | The bIII ⁺ 7, Chord | Major 7th |
| iv | The iv7 Chord | Minor 7th |
| v | The v7 Chord | Minor 7th |
| bVI | The bVI ⁺ 7 Chord | Major 7th |
| bVII | The bVII7 Chord | Dominant 7th |

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.



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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:

| Seventh Chords in Natural Minor Key | Arpeggio Form |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| i7 | R, b3, 5, b7, 8, b7, 5, b3, R |
| iii7 | R, b3, b5, b7, 8, b7, b5, b3, R |
| bIIImaj7 | 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 |
| bVIImaj7 | 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.

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