

MU 009 (Feurzeig) Keyboard Lab Handout #3

Minor key triads

Play the i, iv, and V chords in A minor. Practice both LH and RH, separately.

A musical staff showing the triads i, iv, i, V, v, i in A minor. The V and v chords are highlighted with a blue oval.

A minor: i iv i V or v i

Remember that roman numerals **change case** according to the **triad quality**, so in minor keys, the tonic and subdominant triads are labeled **i** and **iv**.

In minor keys, the dominant chord **typically** is major (V), requiring the use of the leading tone. (That's why the minor scale with the LT in place of the subtonic is called the "harmonic" minor scale.) But the minor dominant (v) may also be used. In certain styles, including some folk music and much modern dance and rap music, the minor dominant is actually more frequent.

Here is the same progression with conjunct voice leading.

fingerings for RH chords:

5 4 5 5 4 5 5
 3 or 2 3 3 or 2 2 3
 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

fingerings for LH chords:

1 1 1 1 1
 3 5 2 3 3 5

i iv i V i i iv₄⁶ i V₃⁶ i

As in major keys, many minor key tunes can be harmonized effectively using only the three primary triads (I, iv, and V or v) of the key. In "Motherless Child", you can try substituting the minor dominant chord (just change the bass note G-sharp to G-natural in the penultimate chord). Both are possible.

Some-times I feel like a moth-er-less child, some-times I feel like a moth-er-less child,

i iv₄⁶ i

some-times I feel like a moth-er-less child, a long- way from home.

i i V₃⁶ i