

Thus, for example : -

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| 2 + | indicates a major second ; |
| 3 - | " a minor third ; |
| 4 x | " an augmented fourth ; |
| 5 o | " a diminished fifth. |

The sign + indicates the term 'perfect,' when it is employed after the numbers 4, 5 and 8.

The student should call each symbol by its proper name ; for example, a major second should not be read as 'two plus,' nor a minor third as 'three minus,' etc.

The melodic symbols for the various degrees of the major and minor scales, the latter in its harmonic form, are shown in the following example.



It will be seen that the same symbol is employed for the mediant in both keys ; when it is desirable to distinguish between the major and minor mediants, the signs + and - respectively are placed before the symbol, thus, +III and -III. The same may be said of the two submediants. In the melodic form of the minor scale, the submediant in ascending is, therefore, +VI, while in descending it is -VI. The technical name (employed in the present work) for the seventh degree in the descending form of the minor scale is 'subtonic' ; the symbol employed for this note is VII.

The symbol L is employed for the leading-note instead of VII (as might have been expected) because in the first place, it is easier to write and, what is frequently an important consideration, it occupies less space than VII ; and, in the second place, because a distinctive symbol more readily directs the attention of the student to the characteristics of the note (See page 14). A point of small importance but one not unworthy of a passing notice is to be seen in the number 50 which is the numerical significance of the Roman numeral L, while 5o (as was shown above) is the symbol for the interval of the diminished fifth, an interval invariably associated with the leading-note in both the major and minor modes.