

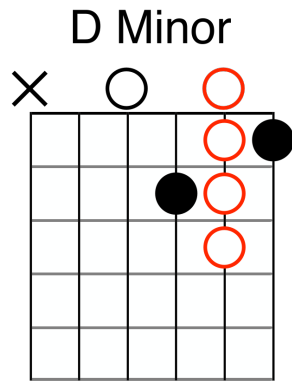
Descending Minor Cliché

The best way to learn how to use the diagrams in this lesson is to [click here and watch the free demonstration](#).

Line Cliché

A line cliché is a type of chord progression in which you play an ascending or descending chromatic line over a static chord. One famous line cliché is the “James Bond” cliché, which is prominent in the music of the older James Bond movies.

The line cliché in this lesson is often called the “Stairway to Heaven” cliché, which features a descending chromatic line over a static minor chord. In this lesson, and in the [free video demonstration](#), you’ll learn how to play the “Stairway” cliché over open minor chords and over moveable minor chords.

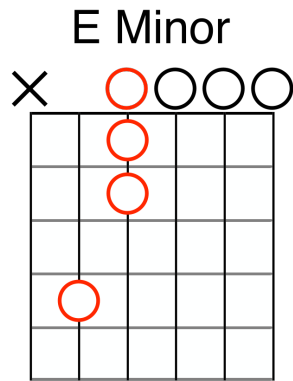


This first minor line cliché is over a D minor chord. In these diagrams, the **red circles** are the moving notes, and the black circles are the notes that stay put. **The moving notes in the red circles are played from the highest sounding to the lowest sounding.**

To play this line cliché in D minor, play the D minor chord, which is formed by playing all the black notes in the diagram, plus the red note on the 2nd string, 3rd fret. This is just a regular D minor chord. While keeping all the black notes the same, move the red notes from the 3rd fret to the 2nd fret to the 1st fret and to the open 2nd string. You will have to adjust your fingering as you play.

The chords names are Dmin, Dmin/maj7, Dmin7, and Dmin6. All the chords in these diagrams follow the same sequence: min, min/maj7, min7, and min6. That being said, you don't have to think about the chord names as you play them. Just think about whatever minor chord you're playing and insert the descending chromatic line.

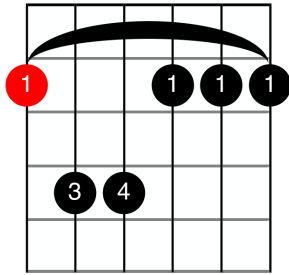
[Click here](#) for the video demonstration.



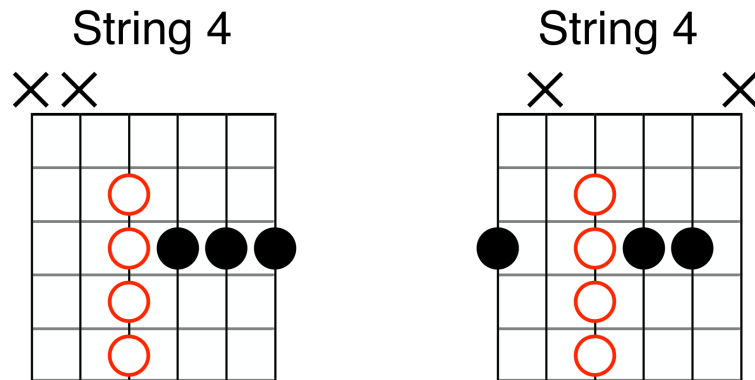
To play the “Stairway” line cliché in E minor, start with strings 1-2-3-4 of the open E minor chord, which is formed by playing strings 1-2-3 open, plus the red note on the 4th string, 2nd fret. While keeping all the black notes the same, move the red notes from the 2nd fret to the 1st fret to the open 4th string, and finish the sequence by playing the last red note on the 5th string, 4th fret. When you play the last note of the sequence, mute the 4th string (or if you’re playing fingerstyle, don’t play the 4th string).

Next, you’ll learn how to play the “Stairway” line cliché with moveable chords so you can play it in any key.

[Click here](#) for the video demonstration.



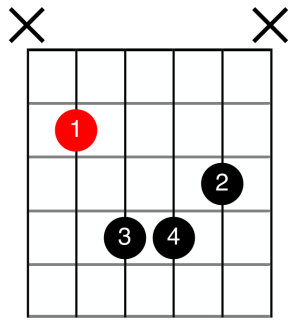
These two versions of the “Stairway” cliché come from this moveable minor chord.



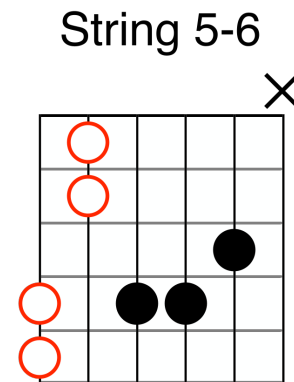
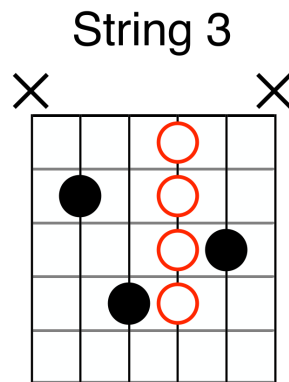
In the first version, you’ll play strings 1-4 of the minor bar chord. Bar strings 1-3 with your 1st finger, and play the highest sounding red note with your 3rd finger. Keep barring strings 1-3 and play the next red note in the sequence with your 2nd finger. Then bar strings 1-4 to play the next note in the sequence. Finally, bar strings 1-3 with your 2nd finger and play the final note in the sequence with your 1st finger.

In the second version, the moving notes are on the same string, but you play strings 2-3-4-6 instead, muting the 5th string and adding a constant bass note. This is most easily played fingerstyle or with hybrid picking. Bar strings 2-6 with your 1st finger and play the highest sounding red note with your 3rd finger. Keep barring and play the next red note in the sequence with your 2nd finger. Then bar all 4 strings to play the next note in the sequence. To play the final moving note, play with fingers 2-1-3-4 from the lowest note to the highest note.

[Click here](#) for the video demonstration.



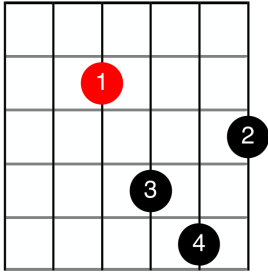
The next two versions of the “Stairway” cliché come from this moveable minor chord.



In the first version, the moving notes are on the 3rd string. To start, play the moveable minor chord as shown in the upper left diagram. From that point, move the red notes from high to low on the 3rd string while keeping the black notes. You’ll have to adjust your fingering as you go. This will be much easier to understand if you [watch the demo](#).

The second version is based in the same moveable minor chord, but now the moving notes are in the bass. You’ll play the first two moving red notes in the sequence on the 5th string, and you’ll play the final two bass notes on the 6th string. When you play the first two bass notes, you can retain the chord form and just stretch your 1st finger to the second note in the series, which is also on the 5th string. You’ll have to adjust your fingering to play the last two notes in the series, and not to sound like a broken record, but the easiest way to learn the fingerings is to [watch the demo](#).

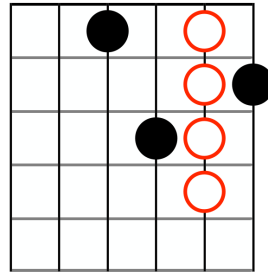
XX



The final version of the “Stairway” cliché in this lesson comes from this moveable minor chord. This is a moveable version of the D minor chord.

String 2

XX



This sequence involves a bit of finger yoga, and I’ll just get it out of the way now and say that the best way to work out the fingerings is to [watch the demo](#).

To start, play the moveable minor chord as shown in the upper left diagram. From that point, move the red notes from high to low on the 2nd string while keeping the black notes. You’ll have to adjust your fingering as you go.