

Key of "B" Minor

Closed fingering is shown in 2nd position but students should also work out an open position fingering. Practice with alternate picking and also reverse alternation. These are not the only ways to finger these scales. Notice the slides at the half tones and the extensions on the first string.

"B" Harmonic minor (raised 7th degree)

"B" Melodic minor (raised 6th and 7th ascending and returned to normal position, descending.)

Harmonic: The raised 7th is retained throughout the study.

Melodic: The raised 6th and 7th are used in the ascending mode and also in the descending mode if there is going to be a change back to ascending at the 6th degree. Confusing? You bet!

The rules stated above are not absolute rules but rather "conventions" in classical melody writing.

When you compose music or perhaps improvise it on the fly, and it sounds good to you, it most likely is correct. If it sounds awkward to you, it will also sound awkward to your audience. If it is awkward, try a different route on the next pass through of your improv.