

Modes

Use the formulas below to learn and practice all of the modes in every key.

Ionian (same as Major Scale)

works well over major triads and major seventh chords

Mixolydian (Lowered 7)

works well over dominant seventh chords



Dorian (Lowered 3 and 7)

works well over minor chords, particularly minor ii chords

Aeolian (Lowered 3, 6, and 7 - same as Natural minor scale)

works well over minor chords particular minor vi



Phrygian (Lowered 2, 3, 6, and 7)

works well over minor chords particular minor iii

Locrian (Lowered 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7)

works well over half-diminished chords



Lydian (Raised 4)

works well over major chords with a #11 or major IV chords



Another way of looking at the modes is to relate them all to the notes of a single major scale.

All of the modes below use only the notes in C Major, but start on a different pitch.

C Ionian (Major)

D Dorian

E Phrygian

F Lydian



G Mixolydian

A Aeolian

B Locrian

