

SCALE MODES

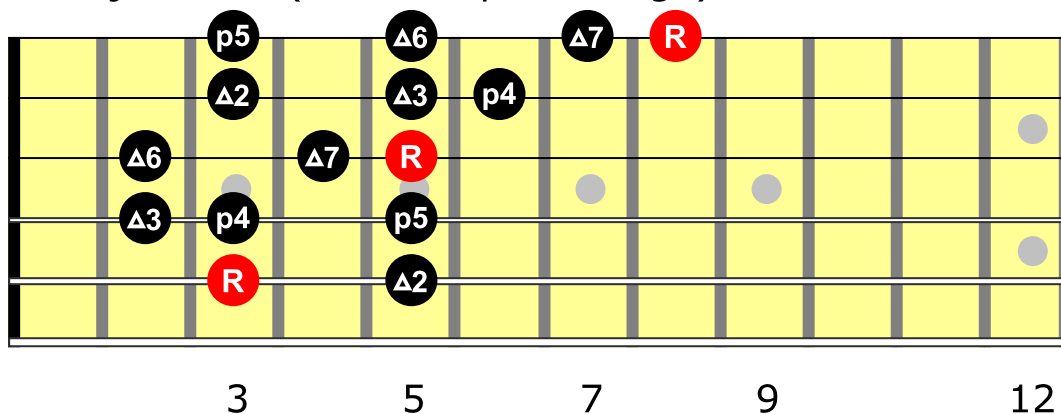
A scale mode is produced by selecting any note in the major diatonic scale and treating that note as the root note of the mode. The scale mode is then the progression from that selected note to its octave, using the notes of the original scale.

Since there are 7 notes in the major scale and one mode is generated from each of them, there are 7 scale modes.

- 1 IONIAN**
- 2 DORIAN**
- 3 PHRYGIAN**
- 4 LYDIAN**
- 5 MIXOLYDIAN**
- 6 AEOLIAN**
- 7 LOCRIAN**

Each mode will have a different INTERVAL PATTERN, creating a unique melodic characteristic for each mode.

C major scale (2 octave pitch range)



In the diagram above we see the C major scale plotted on the fretboard over 2 octaves.

If we play from the 1st to the 2nd ROOT NOTE, we hear the major scale (Ionian Mode).

If we play from the 2nd to ITS OCTAVE we hear the Dorian Mode.

If we play from the 3rd to its octave we hear the Phrygian Mode.

If we play from the 4th to its octave we hear the Lydian Mode.

If we play from the 5th to its octave we hear the Mixolydian Mode.

If we play from the 6th note to its octave we hear the Aeolian mode (minor natural scale).

If we play from the 7th note to its octave we hear the Locrian mode.

THE IONIAN MODE

This is the major scale itself. It treats the first note (the TONIC) as the root note.

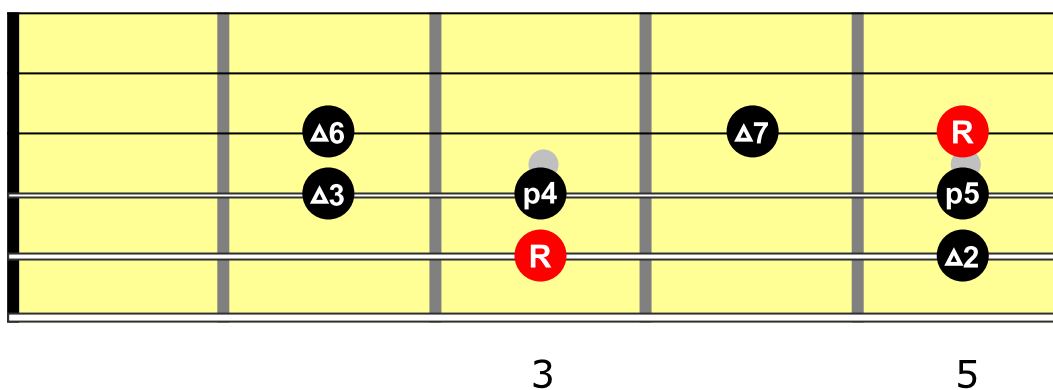
Remember 'do-re-mi-fa-so-la-te-do'? Maybe you recall the song 'Do-Re-Mi' from The Sound of Music? If you do you may have the sweet melodic sound of this first mode running through your head right now.

INTERVAL PATTERN: T - T - S - T - T - T - S

where T = Tone and S = Semi-tone

This means there is a whole TONE of pitch between the first and second notes of this mode, a TONE between 2nd and 3rd, a SEMI_TONE between 3rd and 4th, etc.

C Major Scale - IONIAN MODE



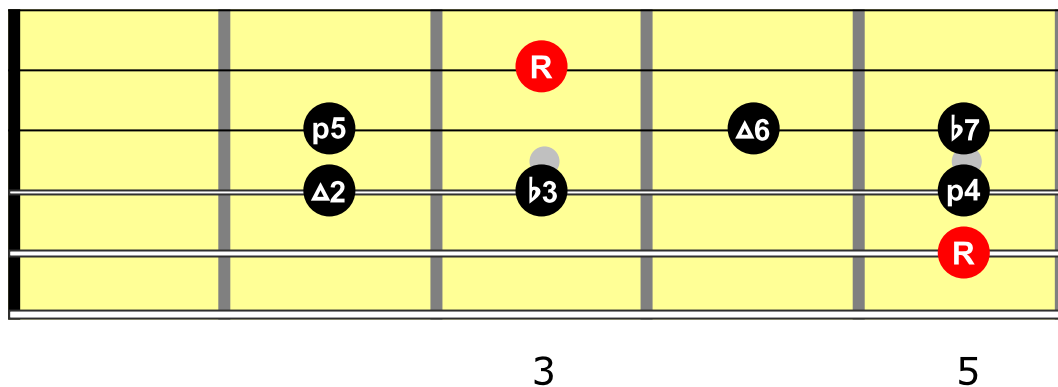
THE DORIAN MODE

This is the 2ND MODE of the major scale. It treats the 2nd note OF THE MAJOR SCALE (the SUPER-TONIC) as the root note.

INTERVAL PATTERN: T - S - T - T - T - S - T

Now this one is essentially a MINOR scale (starts with intervals T-S) but it does feature a SHARPENED 6TH compared with the natural minor scale. The mode is commonly used in jazz.

C Major Scale - DORIAN MODE



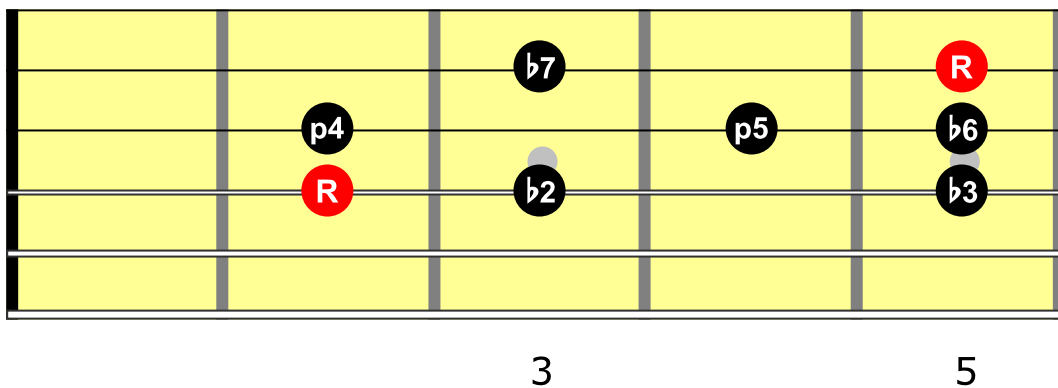
THE PHRYGIAN MODE

This is the 3RD MODE of the major scale. It treats the 3rd note OF THE MAJOR SCALE (the MEDIANT) as the root note.

INTERVAL PATTERN: S - T - T - T - S - T - T

This mode starts with a semi-tone interval. This gives the mode a strongly characteristic and unique sound. It is often described as the Spanish scale, and is used widely in flamenco music. It is identical to the natural minor scale with the exception of the major 2nd, which is flattened to a minor 2nd.

C Major Scale - PHRYGIAN MODE



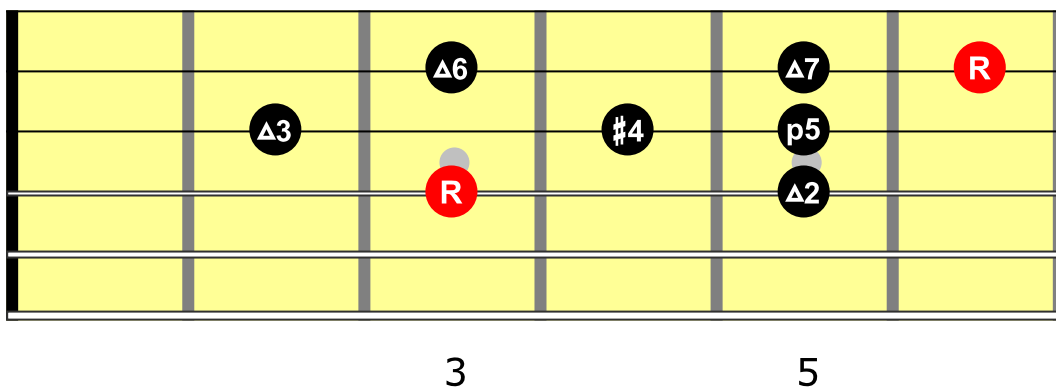
THE LYDIAN MODE

This is the 4th MODE of the major scale. It treats the 4th note OF THE MAJOR SCALE (the SUB-DOMINANT) as the root note.

INTERVAL PATTERN: T - T - T - S - T - T - S

This mode starts with 3 whole-tone intervals. This results in the 4th note being sharpened. This is in fact the only difference between this mode and the Ionian mode (ie the major scale itself). The presence of the sharpened 4th gives the melodies produced a slightly unsettling sound.

C Major Scale - LYDIAN MODE



THE MIXOLYDIAN MODE

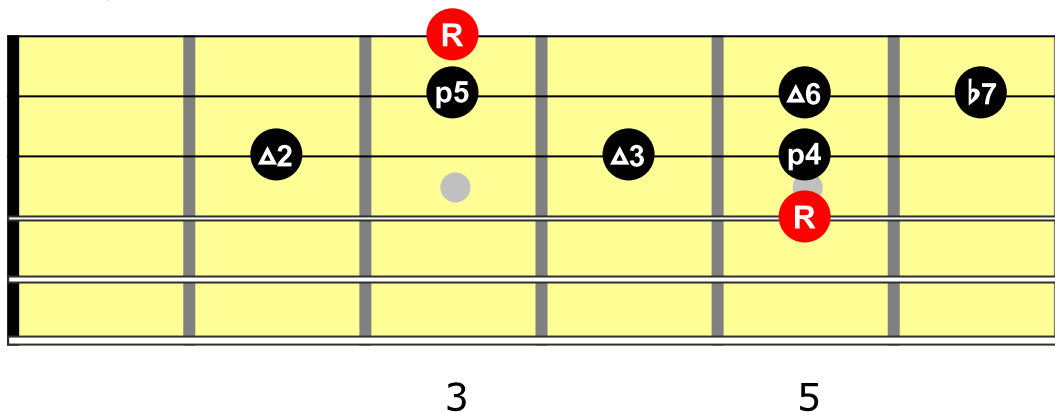
This is the 5th MODE of the major scale. It treats the 5th note OF THE MAJOR SCALE (the DOMINANT) as the root note.

INTERVAL PATTERN: T - T - S - T - T - S - T

This mode is identical to the Ionian mode (major scale) except for the FLATTENED 7th.

It has a bluesy sound due to the flattened 7th.

C Major Scale - MIXOLYDIAN MODE



THE AEOLIAN MODE

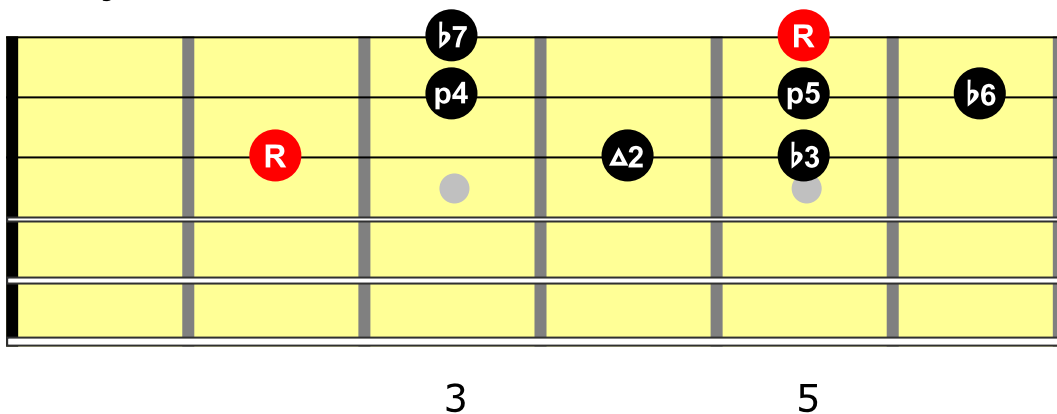
This is the 6th MODE of the major scale. It treats the 6th note OF THE MAJOR SCALE (the SUB-DOMINANT) as the root note.

INTERVAL PATTERN: T - S - T - T - S - T - T

This mode is identical to the NATURAL MINOR scale.

The natural minor scale is in fact the 6th mode of the major scale.

C Major Scale - AEOLIAN MODE



THE LOCRIAN MODE

This is the 7th MODE of the major scale. It treats the 7th note OF THE MAJOR SCALE (the LEADING NOTE) as the root note.

INTERVAL PATTERN: S - T - T - S - T - T - T

This mode is not dis-similar to the NATURAL MINOR scale, but it has such a ditinctive melodic character that it is often regarded as unique.

C Major Scale - LOCRIAN MODE

