

Modes

Scales Within a Scale

Modes are collections of scales within a key signature. For instance, each of the modal scales on this page are in the key of C major. But each modal scale starts on a different note within the key of C major.

I - Ionian

The first mode, Ionian, starts on the first note of the C major scale. It is the same major scale we are already familiar with. It corresponds with the I (one) chord in any key signature (major seventh chords). The ionian mode is shown below.



II - Dorian

The second mode, dorian, includes all the same notes of a C major scale, but it starts and ends on the second note of the scale. It corresponds with the ii (two) chord in any key signature (a minor seventh chord). The dorian mode is shown below.

Which scale degrees are different from a D major scale? Are they raised (#) or lowered (b)?

Write them on the blank spaces: _____



III - Phrygian

The third mode, phrygian, includes all the same notes of a C major scale, but it starts and ends on the third note of the scale. It corresponds with the iii (three) chord in any key signature (a minor seventh chord). The phrygian mode is shown below.

Which scale degrees are different from a E major scale? Are they raised (#) or lowered (b)?

Write them on the blank spaces: _____



IV - Lydian

The fourth mode, lydian, includes all the same notes of a C major scale, but it starts and ends on the fourth note of the scale. It corresponds with the IV (four) chord in any key signature (a major seventh chord). The lydian mode is shown below.

Which scale degree is different from a F major scale? Is it raised (#) or lowered (b)?

Write it on the blank space: _____



V - Mixolydian

The fifth mode, mixolydian, includes all the same notes of a C major scale, but it starts and ends on the fifth note of the scale. It corresponds with the V (five) chord in any key signature (a dominant seventh chord). The mixolydian mode is shown below.

Which scale degree is different from a G major scale? Is it raised (#) or lowered (b)?

Write it on the blank space: _____



VI - Aeolian (natural minor)

The sixth mode, aeolian, includes all the same notes of a C major scale, but it starts and ends on the sixth note of the scale. It corresponds with the vi (six) chord in any key signature (a minor seventh chord). This is the same as the natural minor scale. We will explore minor scales more in a different book.

Which scale degrees are different from a A major scale? Are they raised (#) or lowered (b)?

Write them on the blank spaces: _____



VII - Locrian

The seventh mode, locrian, includes all the same notes of a C major scale, but it starts and ends on the seventh note of the scale. It corresponds with the vii (seven) chord in any key signature (a dominant seventh chord).

Which scale degrees are different from a B major scale? Are they raised (#) or lowered (b)?

Write them on the blank spaces: _____

