

MODES – MAJOR SCALE COMPARISON – www.PlayGTR.co.uk

This is another classic chart to understand how modes are built by comparing them to the major scale starting from the same note...you'll see right away how D Dorian is a minor mode and how it differs from D major scale.

C Ionian = C major by constitution and it is a Major mode.

C Ionian	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
C Major	C	D	E	F	G	A	B

D Dorian

D Dorian	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
D Major	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#

As you can see the difference here is that the Dorian mode has the minor 3rd (F natural instead of F#) and the minor 7th (C natural). The Dorian Mode is a Minor mode

E Phrygian

E Phry	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
E Major	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#

Here not only we can see the minor 3rd and the minor 7th but also the minor 6th and 2nd. This last note gives the characteristic sound to this mode. This is a minor mode.

F Lydian

F Lyd	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
F Major	F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E

A major mode with the raised 4th (Bb raised to B natural). Quite an interesting sound, used a lot for its dream like qualities.

G Mixolydian

G Mixo	G	A	B	C	D	E	F
G Major	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#

This is called a major dominant mode, the characteristic note is the minor 7th on a major scale.

A Aeolian

A Aeol	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
A Major	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#

This mode is also known as Relative minor or Natural minor. Has a minor 3rd, minor 6th and 7th

B Locrian

B Locr	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
B Major	B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#

Maybe not as popular as the other modes, but used quite a lot in many jazz standards and similar tunes this is a minor mode with minor 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th. Also the characteristic note is the diminished 5th, that makes this mode one of kind among those from the major scale.