

A New View of the Modes

Things to keep in mind for each mode:

- The **quality** (is it major, minor, or dominant? Look at the 3rd and 7th,)
- What are the **alterations** to the major scale?
- What **type** of chord does it work with?
- What chord **function** does it work with?

Quality	Mode	Alteration	Chord type and function
Major	Lydian	#4	Any major chord; #11 or b5 implied. Non-tonic major chords
	Ionian	all ♮	Any major chord, no alterations . Tonic major; major tonal centers.
Dominant	Mixolydian	b7	Dominant 7, 9, 11, 13 , dom. sus chords. "Vanilla" (unaltered) dominant; least tension.
Minor	Dorian	b3 b7	Minor : mi7, mi9, mi11, mi13, mi6, mi6/9. The "go-to" minor mode; ii (in a ii - V - I); "unattached" mi7 chords.
	Aeolian	b3 b6 b7	Tonic minor , minor tonal center, minor blues. mi7, mi9, mi11, mi7(b6) [aka (b13) or #5]. NO 6 or 13!
	Phrygian	b2 b3 b6 b7	Minor : mi7, mi11, mi7(b6) [aka (b13) or #5]. NO 9, 6 or 13! iii chords; in a iii - IV
	Locrian	b2 b3 b5 b6 b7	half-diminished or mi7(b5) . ii (in a minor ii - V - i.)

NEW VIEW OF THE MODES:

OVERVIEW

HERE ARE THE MODES OF THE MAJOR SCALE, ALL BEGINNING ON C, SHOWING WHICH ALTERATIONS TO C MAJOR HAVE BEEN APPLIED.

LYDIAN

1 2 3 #4 5 6 7 8 1 2 3 #4 5 6 7 8

IONIAN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

MIXOLYDIAN

1 2 3 4 5 6 b7 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 b7 8

DORIAN

1 2 b3 4 5 6 b7 8 1 2 b3 4 5 6 b7 8

AEOLIAN

1 2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 8 1 2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 8

PHRYGIAN

1 b2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 8 1 b2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 8

LOCRIAN

1 b2 b3 4 b5 b6 b7 8 1 b2 b3 4 b5 b6 b7 8

NOTICE HOW, AS WE MOVE FROM THE BRIGHTEST (LYDIAN) TO THE DARKEST (LOCRIAN), WE SUBTRACT A SHARP/FLAT AND START ADDING FLATS?
WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BEFORE? (HINT: FOLLOW THE CIRCLE...)