

# The Modes

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## Ionian

Musical notation for the Ionian mode (C major scale). The treble clef staff shows the notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The guitar TAB staff shows the fret numbers: 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4.

## Dorian

Musical notation for the Dorian mode (D minor scale). The treble clef staff shows the notes: D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The guitar TAB staff shows the fret numbers: 1, 3, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4.

## Phrygian

Musical notation for the Phrygian mode (E minor scale). The treble clef staff shows the notes: E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5. The guitar TAB staff shows the fret numbers: 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4, 1, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3.

## Lydian

Musical notation for the Lydian mode (F major scale). The treble clef staff shows the notes: F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5. The guitar TAB staff shows the fret numbers: 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 4, 1, 3, 4.

### Mixolydian

1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4

10 12 14 10 12 14 10 12 14 12 13 15 12 13 15

### Aeolian

1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4

12 14 15 12 14 15 12 14 16 13 15 17 13 15 17

### Locrian

1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4

14 15 17 14 15 17 14 16 17 15 17 18 15 17 19

The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize ourselves with the notes on the upper positions of the fretboard. All of the modes contained in this exercise are "C" based modes and the notes found within each are all natural<sup>(♮)</sup>. It is comparable to learning all of the white keys on the piano and should offer a better understanding of the layout of the notes on the fretboard. Each mode has its own unique characteristics and can create some wonderful sounds. Once the memorization process has occurred start experimenting.

Instructions for practice:

1. Play all modes forwards and backwards
2. Utilize all available fingers
3. Use alternate picking