

Let's take the major scale and look at it as numbers:

**C D E F G A B = (1) 2 3 4 5 6 7, with 1=root of scale**

These are Modes of a Major scale (also called the Ionian Mode):

Lydian            1 2 3 +4 5 6 7    (or C D E F# G A B)

Ionian            1 2 3 4 5 6 7     (or C D E F G A B)

Mixolydian      1 2 3 4 5 6 -7    (or C D E F G A Bb)

Dorian           1 2 -3 4 5 6 -7    (or C D Eb F G A Bb)

Aeolian\*        1 2 -3 4 5 -6 -7   (or C D Eb F G Ab Bb)

Phrygian        1 -2 -3 4 5 -6 -7 (or C Db Eb F G Ab Bb)

Locrian         1 -2 -3 4 -5 -6 -7 (or C Db Eb F Gb Ab Bb)

There are two other common minor scales that are not part of the modes. In fact, they generate their own modes:

Melodic Minor: R 2 -3 4 5 6 7    (or C D Eb F G A B)

(note that in classical theory, when you descend this scale it becomes the natural minor (which is the same as the Aeolian mode):

R1 2 -3 4 5 -6 -7 (or C D Eb F G Ab Bb)

Harmonic Minor: R 2 -3 4 5 b6 7    (or C D Eb F G Ab B)

Warmup Exercise: Pick a starting note and play all of these scales on one string with shifts. Then do it for every string on the guitar (always starting on the same note). Then pick a new starting note once you're feeling confident (try a new starting note or key every time you pick up your guitar).

Here are the scales starting from G on the 6th string. Experiment with changing fingerings if you wish.

Lydian Mode R 2 3 +4 5 6 7 for G = G A B C# D E F# G

Fret:        3     5     7     9     10    12    14    15

Finger:     1     2     4     1     2     4     1     2

Note        G     A     B     C#    D     E     F#    G

Major Scale R 2 3 4 5 6 7 for G = G A B C D E F# G

Fret:        3     5     7     8     10    12    14    15

Finger:     1     2     4     1     2     4     1     2

Note        G     A     B     C     D     E     F#    G

Mixolydian Mode R 2 3 4 5 6 -7 for G = G A B C D E F G

Fret:        3     5     7     8     10    12    13    15

Finger:     1     2     4     1     2     4     1     3

Note        G     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Dorian Mode R 2 -3 4 5 6 -7 for G = G A Bb C D E F G

Fret:        3     5     6     8     10    12    13    15

Finger:     1     3     4     1     2     4     1     3

Note        G     A     Bb    C     D     E     F     G

Aeolian Mode R 2 -3 4 5 -6 -7 for G = G A Bb C D Eb F G

Fret: 3 5 6 8 10 11 13 15

Finger: 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3

Note G A Bb C D Eb F G

Phrygian Mode R -2 -3 4 5 -6 -7 for G = G Ab Bb C D Eb F G

Fret: 3 4 6 8 10 11 13 15

Finger: 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3

Note G Ab Bb C D Eb F G

Locrian Mode R -2 -3 4 5 -6 -7 for G = G Ab Bb C Db Eb F G

Fret: 3 4 6 8 9 11 13 15

Finger: 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3

Note G Ab Bb C Db Eb F G

Melodic Minor Scale R 2 -3 4 5 6 7 for G = G A Bb C D E F# G

Fret: 3 5 6 8 10 12 14 15

Finger: 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2

Note G A Bb C D E F# G

Harmonic Minor Scale R 2 -3 4 5 6 7 for G = G A Bb C D Eb F# G

Fret: 3 5 6 8 10 11 14 15

Finger: 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2

Note G A Bb C D Eb F# G