



The Phrygian Dominant Scale

The phrygian dominant scale is the 5th mode of the harmonic minor scale. If we take the C harmonic minor scale -

C D E \flat F G A \flat B

and start it on the 5th note, we get -

G A \flat **B** **C** **D** E \flat **F**

This scale is most commonly used to improvise over a dominant 7 \flat 9 \flat 13 chord. If we take the root, 3rd, 5th and 7th of the scale (shown above in bold) then we get a G dominant 7 chord. If we include the 9th, 11th and 13th as extensions (shown above in red) then we have a G7 \flat 9 \flat 13.

It is very common to see use this scale to improvise over a chord written as dom7 \flat 9. Improvisers normally choose to use this scale when the chord is resolving to a minor I chord. (G7 \flat 9-Cm7). This creates a powerful resolution as the scale is derived from a C harmonic minor scale.