



## Modes of the Melodic Minor Scale

The melodic minor scale has 7 individual modes. This means that we can play the melodic minor scale from 7 different starting points. Each mode has a distinctive character and can be used to improvise over different chord types. The 7 modes of the melodic minor scale are written below in the the key of C.

**Melodic Minor** - C D **E<sup>b</sup>** F **G** A **B** C  
**Dorian b2**- D E<sup>b</sup> **F** G **A** B **C** D  
**Lydian Augmented** - **E<sup>b</sup>** F **G** A **B** C **D** E<sup>b</sup>  
**Lydian Dominant** - **F** G **A** B **C** D **E<sup>b</sup>** F  
**Mixolydian b6** - **G** A **B** C **D** E<sup>b</sup> **F** G  
**Locrian Natural 9** - **A** B **C** D **E<sup>b</sup>** F **G** A  
**Super Locrian** - **B** C **D** E<sup>b</sup> **F** G **A** B

By taking the root, 3rd, 5th and 7th of each mode (shown above in bold), we get a series of 7th chords that occur in a melodic minor key. The order of chord types is consistent in an all melodic minor keys. For example, the 3rd chord in any melodic minor key will be a major 7#5 chord. These chord types are given numbers which are usually notated as roman numerals.

**I** = Minor/Major 7  
**II** = Minor 7  
**III** = Major 7#5  
**IV** = Dominant 7  
**V** = Dominant 7  
**VI** = Minor 7b5  
**VII** = Minor 7b5