



The Lydian Dominant Scale

The lydian dominant scale is the 4th mode of the melodic minor scale. If we take the G melodic minor scale -

G A B \flat C D E F \sharp

and start it on the 4th note, we get -

C D E F \sharp G A B \flat

This scale is most commonly used to improvise over a dominant 7 \sharp 11 chord. If we take the root, 3rd, 5th and 7th of the scale (shown above in bold) then we get a C dominant 7 chord. If we include the 9th, 11th and 13th as extensions (shown above in red) then we have a C13(\sharp 11).

People often use this scale to improvise over a dominant 7th chord as they prefer the sound of the \sharp 11 to the sound of the natural 11th which is present in the mixolydian scale.

Practise using this scale to improvise over dominant 7th chords and look for interesting melodic patterns. For example, in the scale we have a C major and D major triad. Using these triads in various inversions is a melodically interesting device.