



## The Lydian Mode

The Lydian mode is the fourth mode of the major scale. In the key of C major, the scale would consist of the following notes -

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

If we take the root, 3rd, 5th and 7th notes of the scale (highlighted in bold), we get a major 7 chord. This means that we can use the lydian mode to improvise over a major 7 chord. There are several scale options when improvising over a major 7 chord in jazz music. The lydian mode is used to improvise over chord IV in a major key.

If we add the extensions on to the F major 7 chord, we can get a F major 7#11. This is a very common sound in jazz music. Many improvisers choose to use the lydian mode over any major 7 chord as they prefer the sound of the #11 to the natural 11th which is part of the major scale.

Chords which imply the use of the lydian mode can also be written as slash chords. In this case, the chord would be G/F. This also gives us an important improvisational clue as it shows us that we can use the F major and G major triads to create interesting melodic patterns on the F major 7 chord.