

A MODERN APPROACH TO NAVIGATING YOUR WAY AROUND THE FRETBOARD



# Introspective Guitar

Introspective Guitar was written for the sole purpose of advancing the guitarist's knowledge of modal theory and application. This book goes *indepth* in its discussion and application of the modes, with over 1,000 exercises and variations that give the student an extended modal vocabulary to draw from. Included are easy to learn concepts, that when applied to each mode, will help the guitarist visualize the modes over the entire fretboard as well as apply them to various chords and progressions.

Unique concepts such as the 10 Positions to all scales and modes, the Backwards Modal Approach, 12 Tone Rows and the Color Scale are covered in this book as well as numerous Exotic and Synthetic Scales. Each concept is elementary in its origin, but once learned, will open up new worlds of musical possibilities to the artist.

Introspective Guitar is intended for intermediate through advanced players with a desire to explore the musical possibilities acquired through the knowledge of modal theory. The player's basic knowledge of chords and progressions is assumed, as well as an understanding of how chords are derived from parent scales. It is also encouraged that the student has a previous knowledge of rhythmic patterns (eighth notes, triplets, etc...).

This book is broken up into 4 Sections. The first being an introduction to the makeup and origin of modes as well as an extensive Warm Up section devoted to preparing the guitarist for his practice session or performance. Section 2 contains 7 chapters, each one dedicated to a mode of the Major Scale. Section 3 is a broad overview of when and where to apply the modes as well as ideas on new ways to approach the use of modes. The last section contains a Scale/Chord Relationship diagram and a variety of Synthetic and Exotic Scales upon which the concepts learned in Sections 2 and 3 can be applied to create more unique sounding ideas and melodies.

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# Introduction

Welcome to *Introspective Guitar*. You may be wondering what the title of this book has to do with its contents. Well, the answer to that very question is what lies at the heart of this book. I believe that for us to fully express ourselves as musicians, we need to have total control and command over our instrument. Not only does this mean total mechanical control, but total creative control as well. In order to truly express what we hear in our head, both the mechanical and creative processes need to be working hand in hand with each other.

Over the last few decades, the process of recording and distributing modern music has evolved dramatically. The equipment we use to record and perform music has become much more powerful, leading to a change in the way that records are recorded, marketed and sold. However, despite this change, the concepts and techniques behind playing the guitar and creating music with it have remained the same.

Outlined in the following pages are the tools needed to bridge the gap between mechanical control of our instrument and the creative potential we have with it. All you need to do is sit down, dive into the exercises and commit some new patterns to memory.

I strongly recommend that you use a metronome while practicing the exercises in this book. This will keep your tempo constant as well as allow you to push yourself once you have the exercise down at your current tempo. Also, I have found it extremely beneficial to practice the exercises in this book in every key. This will help you familiarize yourself with playing in various keys, not just the typical A, E, and G that most guitar players fall into the rut of playing in.

The exercises in this book are meant to be fun and challenging. There is much room for your own variations on these themes, and I strongly recommend that you come up with as many new ideas as you can. Push yourself and you'll notice results fairly quickly.

There is one thing I'd like to say about scales, modes, and theory at large. I've heard the argument from a lot of musicians that if they learn any type of theory it'll stifle their creativity. I'd equate this mentality to a tourist in a foreign land navigating the complex highways and city streets without a map or any basic knowledge of the local language. You may eventually get to your destination, but you may have taken many unnecessary detours along the way. I'm not saying that you need to know how to write out music in 4 part harmony, or the theory behind the Neapolitan 6<sup>th</sup>, but I believe a solid foundation of theory is essential if you want to work with other musicians and have a fruitful career in music.

So, with that being said, I hope you enjoy playing through this book as much as I have enjoyed writing it. Now crank that amp up and let's get to work... or play... however you want to look at it.

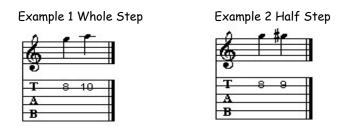
-Michael Elsner

# Section 1

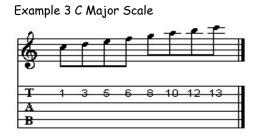
How to Build a Major Scale
What is a Mode?
What are the Modes?
Warming Up
Finger Independence
12 Tone Rows
Arpeggios

# How To Build A Major Scale

All scales are derived from a series of whole steps and half steps played in succession. For guitarists, a whole step is a note 2 frets away, forward or backward, from your starting note. A half step is a note 1 fret away, forward or backward, from your starting note.



The Major Scale consists of 2 whole steps, 1 half step, 3 whole steps, and finally 1 half step (W,W,H,W,W,H). In C, this would be C,D,E,F,G,A,B,C.



The Major Scale is commonly written numerically as 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, leaving off the 8<sup>th</sup> degree, or octave, as it simply is a restatement of the root note of the scale.

In this book we will reference each scale/mode off of the Major Scale (1,2,3,4,5,6,7). For example, in the Natural Minor Scale (also known as the Aeolian Mode), the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> degrees are each lowered a half step compared to the Major Scale. Therefore, the Natural Minor Scale (Aeolian) would be written as 1,2,*b*3,4,5,*b*6,*b*7. Comparing this to the major scale, we see that the notes in C Natural Minor (or C Aeolian) are C,D,Eb,F,G,Ab,Bb.

# What Is A Mode?

When playing single note lines in music, scales and modes are often used as a guide for what notes will sound good over certain chords. Simply stated, a mode is nothing more than a collection of notes taken from a parent scale. That's all there is to it. Easy right? Well, it took me a long time to understand this idea and implement the concept into my playing.

In my quest to better myself as a musician and be able to perform in any given situation, I've come across some interesting ways to think about scales and modes and how to utilize them at the drop of a hat. My goal in this book is to get you thinking along these same lines so that you can utilize different scales and modes to their, and your, fullest potential.

The seven "classic" modes that we'll be covering in-depth in this book are based on the Major Scale, also known as the Ionian Mode. These modes simply start on the different degrees of the Major Scale (Ionian Mode), with each having its own harmonic and melodic implications.

# What Are The Modes?

Now that we have an idea of what a mode is, let's explore this further using the key of C Major, spelled C,D,E,F,G,A,B.

The 1<sup>st</sup> mode of this scale is called Ionian (1,2,3,4,5,6,7), but the term Major is most often used to describe it as the true major scale. This mode starts on the root note (in this case C) and continues up to the same note an octave higher (C,D,E,F,G,A,B,C).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> mode of this scale is called Dorian (1,2,b3,4,5,6,b7), and has a minor tonality because of the lowered 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. This mode starts on the second note (in this case D) and continues to it's root an octave higher (D,E,F,G,A,B,C,D).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> mode is called Phrygian (1,b2,b3,4,5,b6,b7), and has a minor tonality as well. Phrygian starts on the third note (in this case E) and continues up (E,F,G,A,B,C,D,E).

The 4<sup>th</sup> mode is called Lydian (1,2,3,#4,5,6,7). It has a major tonality because of the major 3<sup>rd</sup> and starts on the fourth note of the Major Scale (in this case F) and continues (F,G,A,B,C,D,E,F).

The 5<sup>th</sup> mode is called Mixolydian (1,2,3,4,5,6,b7), and also has a major tonality. It starts on the 5<sup>th</sup> note of the Major Scale (in this case G) and ascends (G,A,B,C,D,E,F,G).

The 6<sup>th</sup> mode of the Major Scale is known as the Aeolian Mode but is more commonly referred to as the Natural (Pure) Minor Scale. It is considered the relative minor to it's parent scale (in this case C Major), but regardless of what name you choose to call it by, it is still spelled the same (1,2,b3,4,5,b6,b7). The Aeolian mode starts on the 6<sup>th</sup> note of the Major Scale and ascends (A,B,C,D,E,F,G,A).

The 7<sup>th</sup> and final mode of the Major Scale is called the Locrian Mode (1,b2,b3,4,b5,b6,b7). This is the least commonly used mode because of its diminished tonality as a result of the lowered 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> degrees. The Locrian Mode starts on the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the Major Scale and ascends (B,C,D,E,F,G,A,B).

# Warming Up

I used to hate this part of practicing. In fact, I hated it so much that I never did it. Then, as a result, I injured my hand pretty severely and had to put the guitar down for almost a year in order to recover. Since then I haven't had much of a choice about warming up since it is essentially the difference between working a day job or creating music for a living. I prefer the latter. So, as a result, I've chosen to not look at my warm up routine as a "Warm Up Routine," but more of an "Exercise in Finger Independence."

Ever notice how often your dog or cat stretches its muscles? If you have, then you most likely know where I'm going with this. Unlike a lot of humans, animals are pretty smart when it comes to taking care of their bodies. Stretching should be the first part of your warm up because it loosens tight muscles and tendons and increases flexibility, decreasing the risk of injury to your hands. After stretching out, massage the muscles used to play the guitar in order to increase the blood flow through these muscles. The nice thing about this part of warming up is that you can stretch and massage the muscles you use without even having to pick up the guitar. This can be accomplished on the way to a rehearsal, in the dressing room before a show, or on a couch while watching TV. Here are a few exercises to get you going...

Hold each stretch for 15 to 20 seconds and repeat them as often as you'd like. Don't pull too hard and **don't hurt yourself!** 

## Stretching:

- 1) Pull arm over head and feel the stretch along your side.
- 2) Pull arm around front of body to stretch back and shoulder.
- 3) With arm fully extended in front of you, pull fingertips down and in to stretch top of hand, wrist and forearm.
- 4) With arm fully extended in front of you, pull fingertips up and back to stretch bottom of hand, wrist and forearm.
- 5) With arm extended in a manner to shake hands with someone, pull thumb back to stretch inside of palm.

# Massaging:

- 1) Massage each finger through to the tips.
- 2) Massage palm of hand with thumb of other hand.
- 3) Massage front of shoulder/collarbone area.
- 4) Massage muscles around elbow.
- 5) Massage forearm.

# Finger Independence

When it comes to the "Finger Independence" part of warming up, separate your routine into two main categories, left hand and right hand.

#### Left Hand:

We can break our left hand warm up exercises into 3 sections.

- 1) Single String Variations
- 2) Adjacent String Variations
- 3) String Skipping Variations

The graph below outlines 24 fingering variations that can be used with each of the exercises in this section. The numbers simply refer you to which finger to use and when. For example, 1 represents your pointer finger and 4 represents your pinky.

1234	2134	3124	4123
1243	2143	3142	4132
1324	2314	3214	4213
1342	2341	3241	4231
1423	2413	3412	4312
1432	2431	3421	4321

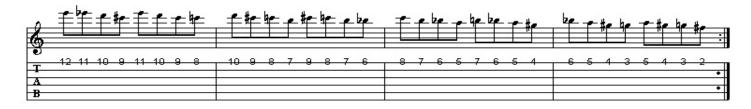
It would be pointless to write out each variation for each exercise. Therefore, I have written each exercise using the first variation as an example. The exercise patterns are relatively easy to remember so you should have no problem incorporating the other 23 variations into each exercise.

It is extremely important to practice with a metronome. This serves two purposes. The first is that it keeps you honest about your timing which will help you realize what you need work on, and second, you can chart your progress and push yourself to attain a faster beat per minute tempo during your practice sessions.

# Single String:

### Exercise 1





### Exercise 2





### Exercise 3



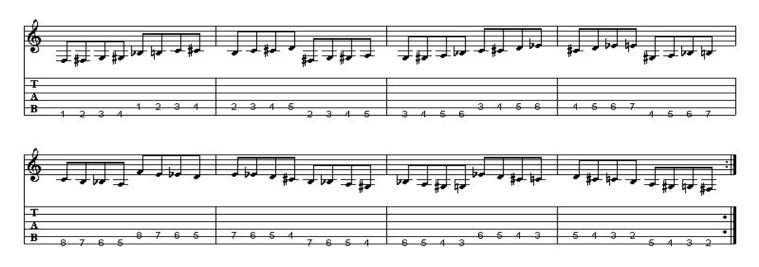


#### Exercise 4



# Adjacent String:

#### Exercise 1



#### Exercise 2



#### Exercise 3





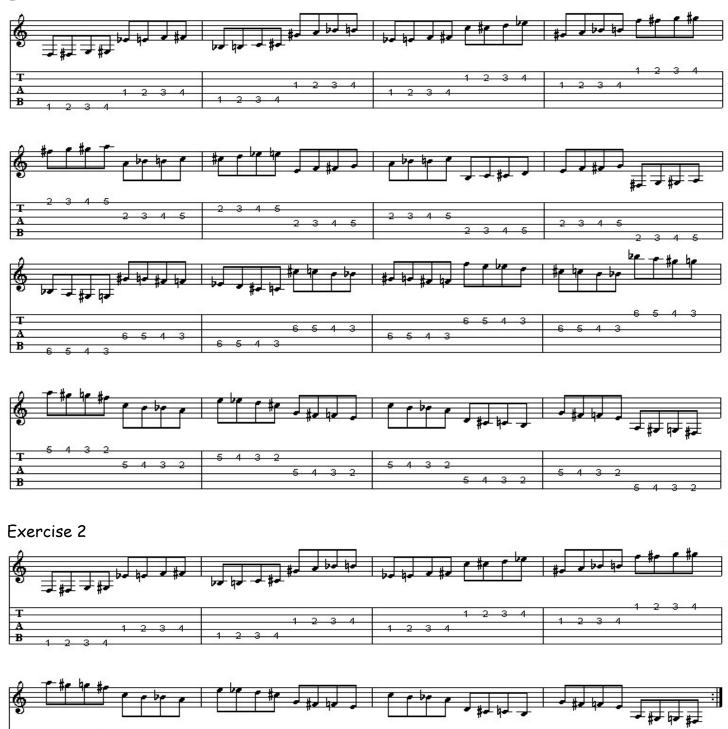
### Exercise 4



\* Try playing these examples using all 6 strings.

# String Skipping:

#### Exercise 1



#### Exercise 3





#### Exercise 4



# A Word On Alternate Picking

Much of the left hand warm ups double as a great warm up for the right hand as well. It is especially important that you concentrate on your alternate picking during these exercises. The point here is not speed, but accuracy. You can increase speed over time, but only after you have achieved total accuracy at your current tempo.

Alternate picking is exactly that... alternate picking. If you start with a down stroke, then the next note you play will be with an upstroke regardless of what string you played the previous note on. If you're new to this concept, start by playing an open string in a *down up down up* picking pattern. When you feel comfortable with the pattern, start incorporating this way of picking into all the exercises in this book.

## Right Hand:

The following exercises are not only great for building speed and accuracy but also truly put your alternate picking and string skipping skills to the test. Keep your metronome tempo the same for each exercise. This is designed to start off slow and build steadily by increasing the number of notes you play per beat. The full pattern is given in Exercise 1. Play through this progression for Exercises 2, 3 and 4. If you're feeling real adventurous, play 5 notes per beat (quintuplets) and 6 notes per beat (sextuplets). Have Fun!

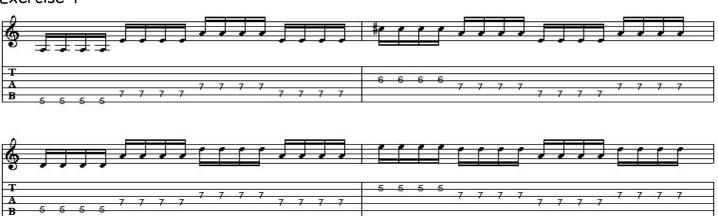


#### Exercise 2



# 

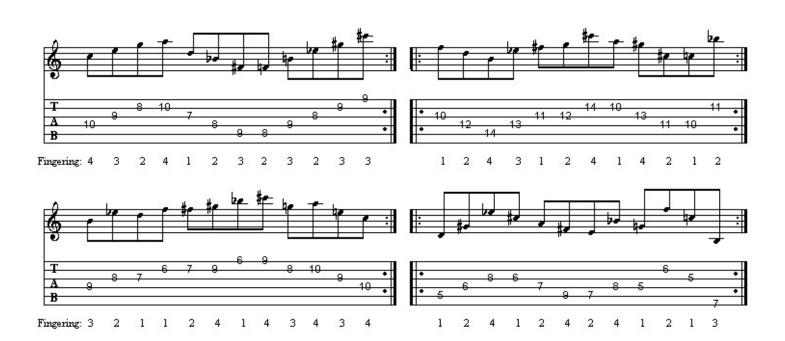
#### Exercise 4



# 12 Tone Rows

Now that our left and right hands have gone through their own warm up exercises, let's put them to the test. The following patterns are called 12 Tone Rows. Simply stated, these exercises comprise of a repeating pattern of each of the 12 tones in the western scale. The idea of these patterns is that we never repeat a note. I have personally found this helpful in breaking my fingers out of any patterns that they have gotten used to during the previous warm ups. They are also helpful in that they contain some finger stretches and string skipping.

Here are 4 example exercises/patterns with the fingerings to get you going, but feel free to come up with as many new ones as you'd like. The one thing to remember while creating your own is to use each note only once. Get creative and have fun!



# **Arpeggios**

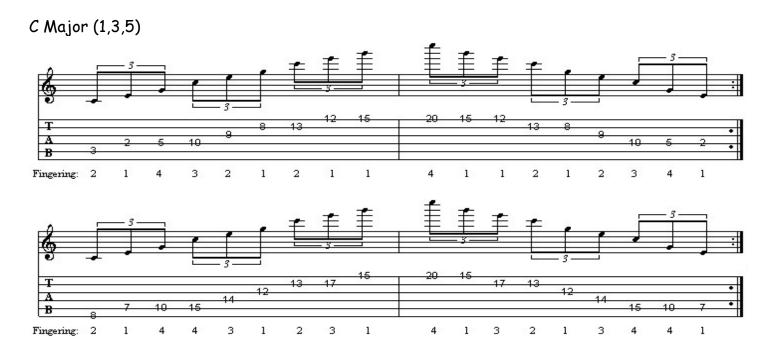
This subject is one of my personal favorites. Besides being extremely fun to play, arpeggios, especially extended arpeggios, sound very cool at high speeds.

By definition, an arpeggio is 'the sounding of the notes of a chord in rapid succession instead of simultaneously.' The most basic arpeggio consists of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> notes of the scale you are playing the arpeggio in. These are also the same scale degrees for the most basic major or minor chords.

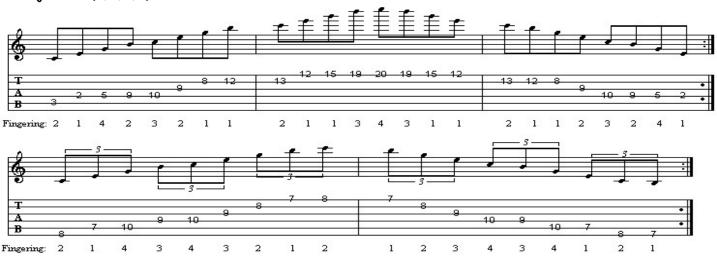
Other scale degrees can be added to the basic arpeggio to make an extended arpeggio. An example would be the Major 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggio which consists of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> degrees of the Major scale. These 'extensions' have the ability to bring out the different tonalities of each scale and mode. If this doesn't make complete sense yet, don't worry. As we progress through this book you'll understand how the modes work and which arpeggios to play in each mode.

This section is broken down into 2 categories, Major Arpeggios and Minor Arpeggios. Within each section are the basic arpeggios beginning on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> strings as well as their various extensions.

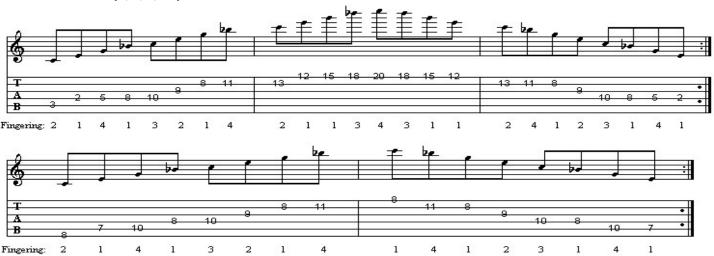
# Major Arpeggios:



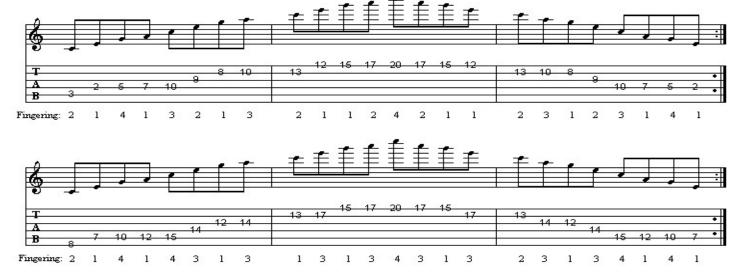
# C Major 7th (1,3,5,7)



# C Dominant 7th (1,3,5,b7)

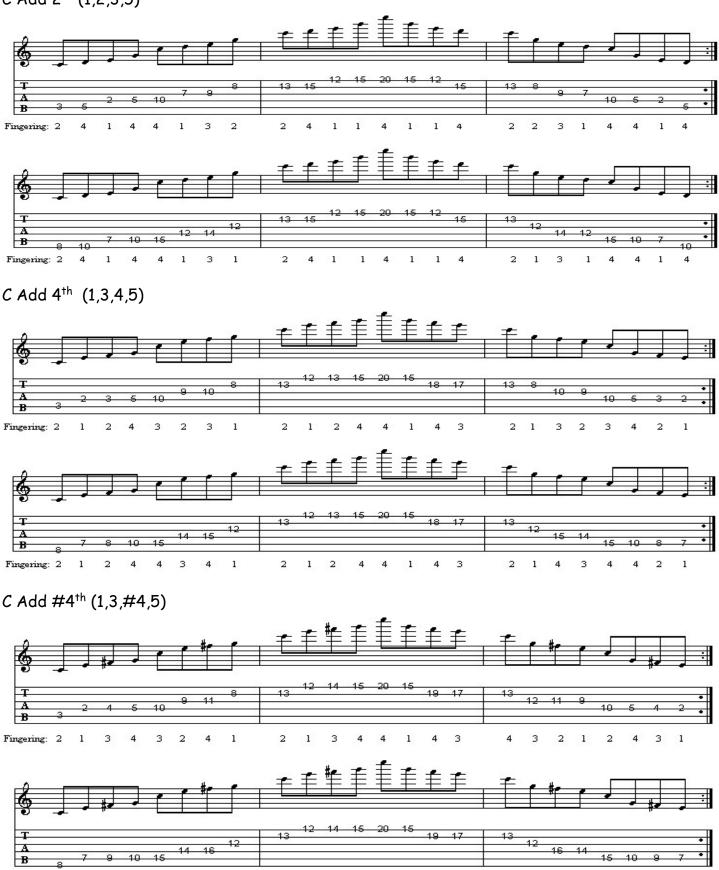


# C Major 6<sup>th</sup> (1,3,5,6)



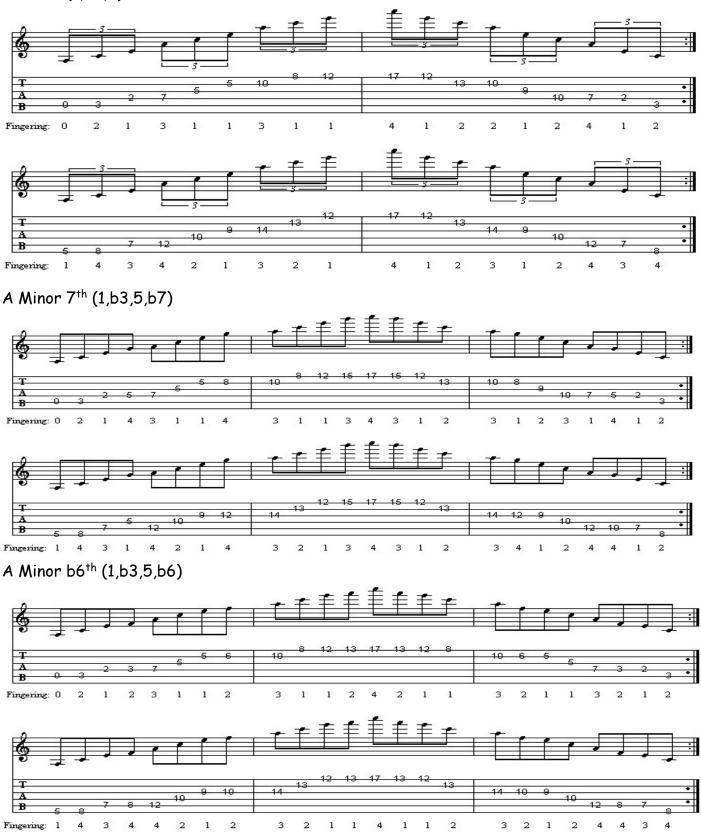
#### C Add 2<sup>nd</sup> (1,2,3,5)

21

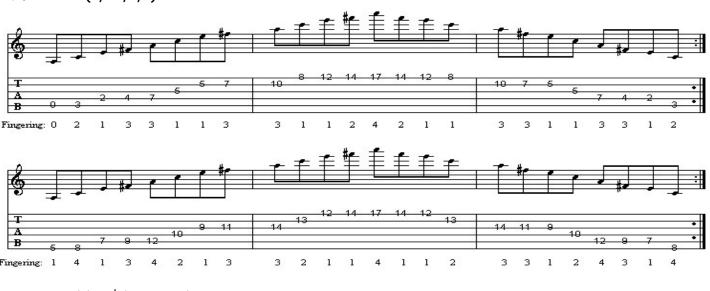


# Minor Arpeggios:

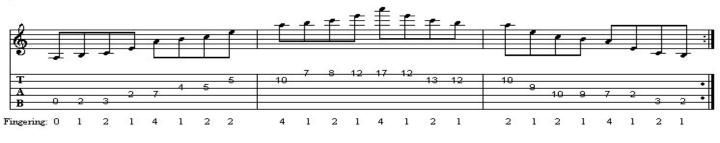
A Minor (1,b3,5)



### A Minor 6<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,5,6)

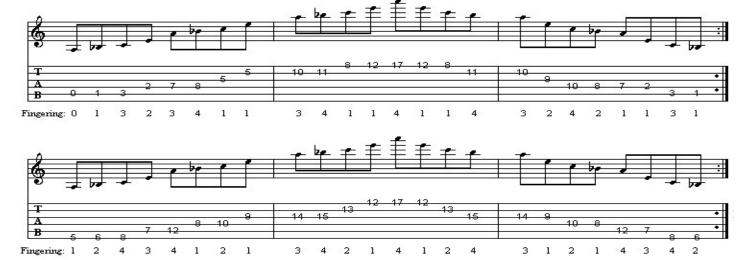


# A Minor Add 2<sup>nd</sup> (1,2,b3,5)

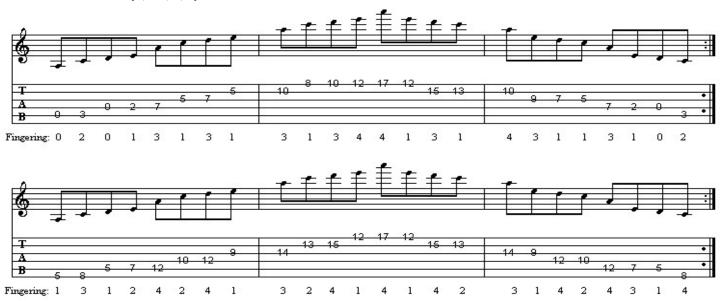




### A Minor Add b2<sup>nd</sup> (1,b2,b3,5)



#### A Minor Add 4th (1,b3,4,5)



These patterns can be played in any position on the guitar. For example, if you wanted to play a D Major Arpeggio, play the C Major pattern 2 frets higher so you are starting on the D instead of the C. The same goes for the minor arpeggios.

To get some other interesting sounding arpeggios, try combining some of these to make other extended variations. To get yourself started, combine the Major 6<sup>th</sup> arpeggio with the Major 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggio and combine the Minor 6<sup>th</sup> arpeggio with the Minor Added 2<sup>nd</sup> arpeggio.

It's very important to practice these patterns with a metronome. Also, remember to concentrate on your alternate picking.

# Section 2

Ionian Mode
Dorian Mode
Phrygian Mode
Lydian Mode
Mixolydian Mode
Aeolian Mode
Locrian Mode

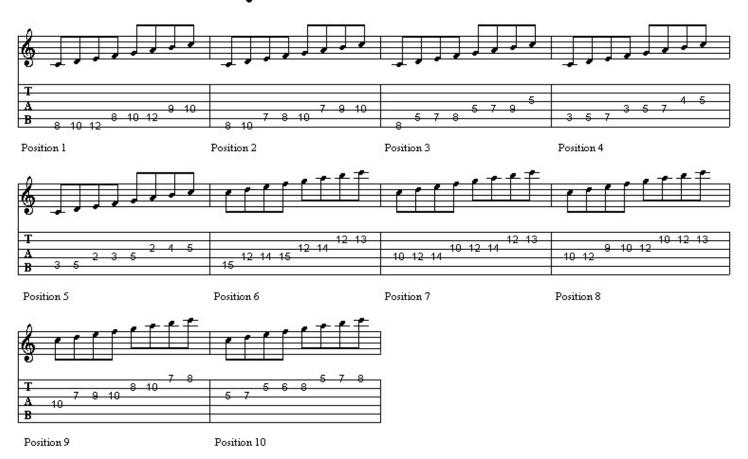
# The Ionian Mode

The first mode of the Major Scale is called the Ionian Mode (1,2,3,4,5,6,7), however this scale is generally referred to as simply the Major Scale. This is the parent scale from which all the other modes are derived.

The Ionian Mode is played over major chords or progressions based on the Major Scale. The most common chords would be Major, Major 6<sup>th</sup>, Major 7<sup>th</sup>, Major 9<sup>th</sup>, and Major 11<sup>th</sup>. Also suspended chords such as the suspended 2<sup>nd</sup> (1,2,5) and 4<sup>th</sup> (1,4,5) can be used. If desired, you can add other scale degrees to these chords such as the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> for a more interesting sound. The general rule is to keep the degrees of the chord within the context of the mode you're using.

Be aware that the 4<sup>th</sup> note in this scale is often called the "avoid" note in that is has a very dissonant nature when played over the Major and Major 7<sup>th</sup> chords.

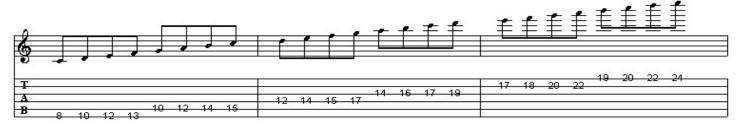
The 10 Positions of C Major



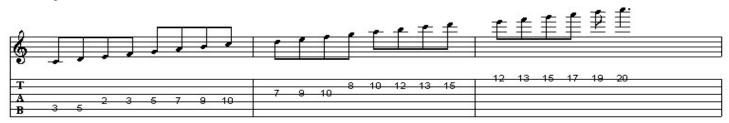
# C Major 3 Note Per String Pattern

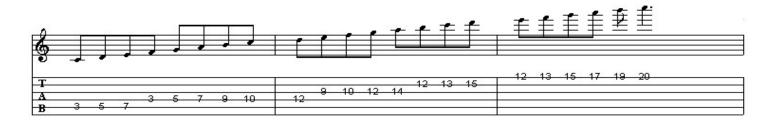


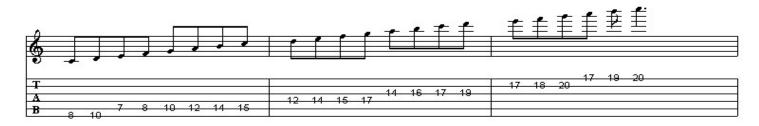
# C Major 4 Note Per String Pattern

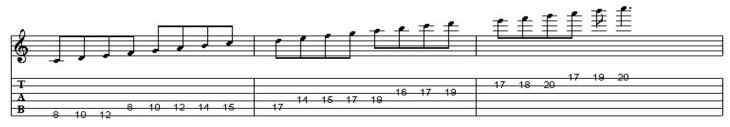


# C Major Full Scale Patterns





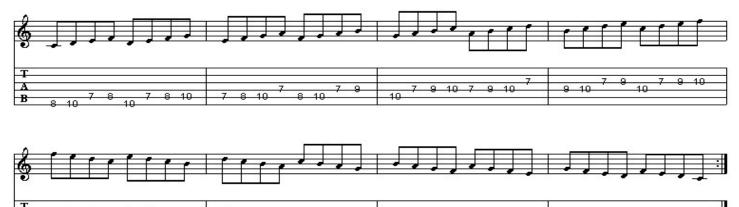




#### Exercises

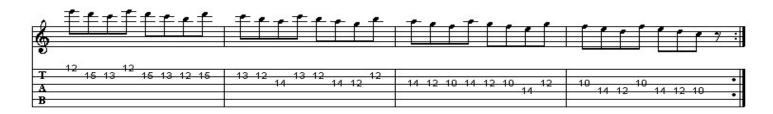
The best way to learn your way around the Ionian Mode, and all the other modes for that matter, is to practice the following exercises in all 10 Positions as well as the 3 and 4 Note Per String Patterns and the Full Scale Patterns where applicable. To get you started, I've included one fingering example for each exercise.

**Ex. 1** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

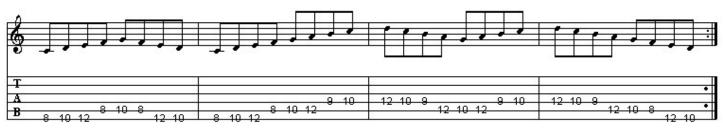


Ex. 2 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





Ex. 3 (All 10 Positions, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



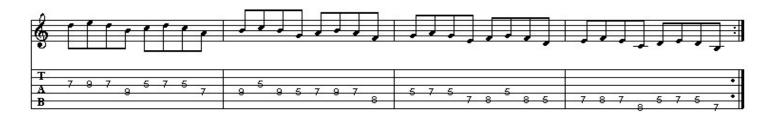
#### Ex. 4 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



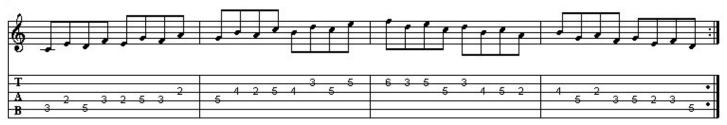


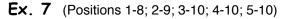
#### Ex. 5 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



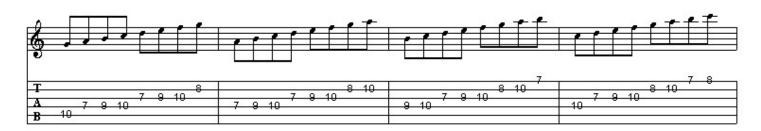


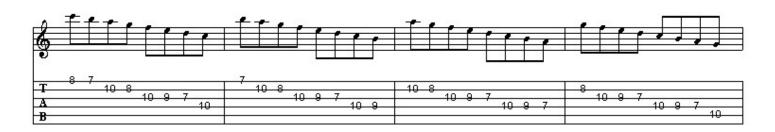
#### **Ex. 6** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

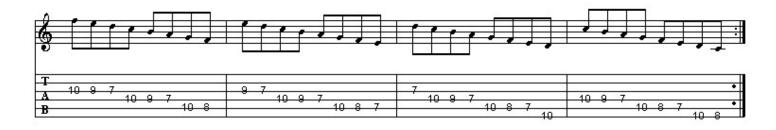






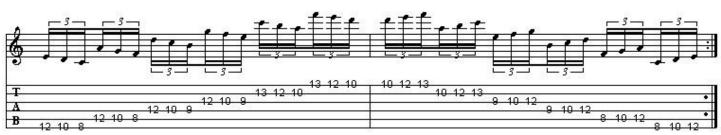






The next example is a new way of looking at these patterns. Instead of just playing up and down the scale, play these scales backwards up and down.



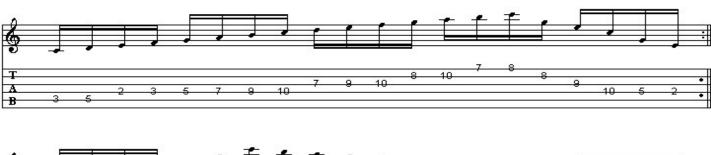


### Ionian Arpeggios

The following Arpeggios can be played in the Ionian Mode. You'll notice that the scale degrees used in each arpeggio are from this mode. Feel free to add other scale degrees to these for more complex arpeggio exercises.

Major (1,3,5) Major  $6^{th}$  (1,3,5,6) Major  $7^{th}$  (1,3,5,7) Added  $2^{nd}$  (1,2,3,5) Added  $4^{th}$  (1,3,4,5)

## Alternating Scale / Arpeggio Exercises



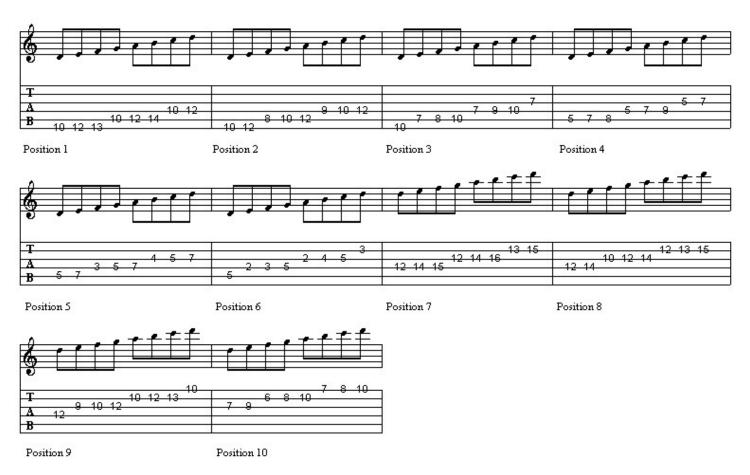


# The Dorian Mode

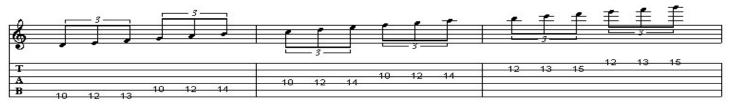
The second mode of the Major Scale is called the Dorian Mode (1,2,b3,4,5,6,b7). This is one of the most popular modes used for soloing in rock music - it is used more often than the Natural Minor Scale (Aeolian Mode). This mode can be viewed in two ways. It can be looked at as a Major Scale with a lowered 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, or a Natural Minor Scale with a raised 6<sup>th</sup>. As we learned earlier, the lowered 3<sup>rd</sup> degree renders this a minor mode.

The Dorian Mode is played over minor chords or progressions. The most common chords would be Minor, Minor 6<sup>th</sup>, Minor 7<sup>th</sup>, Minor 9<sup>th</sup> and Minor 11<sup>th</sup>. As with the Ionian mode, suspended chords such as the suspended 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> can be used. When used over a Minor 7<sup>th</sup> chord, there are no notes to avoid.

The 10 Positions of D Dorian



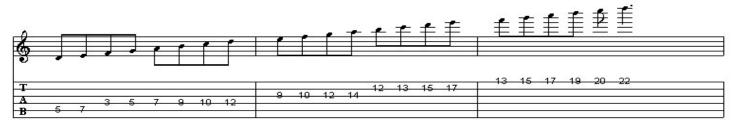
# D Dorian 3 Note Per String Pattern

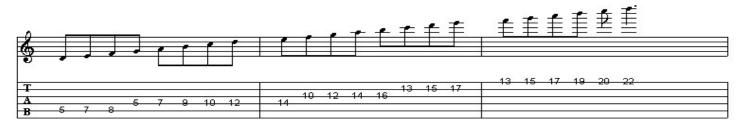


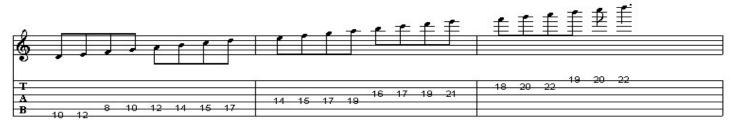
# D Dorian 4 Note Per String Pattern

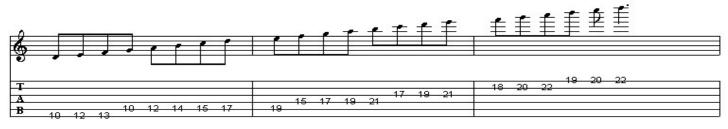


# D Dorian Full Scale Patterns





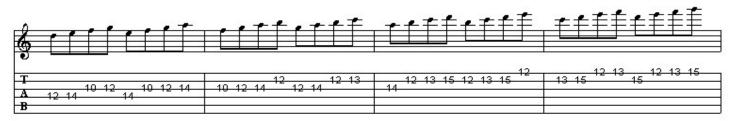


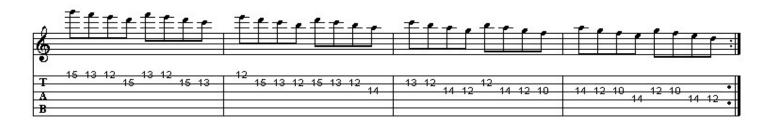


#### Exercises

Practice the following exercises in all the 10 Positions, 3 and 4 Note Per String Patterns, and Full Scale patterns where applicable. Again I have included one fingering example for each exercise.

**Ex. 1** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



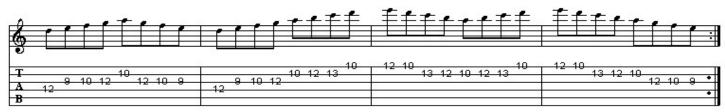


Ex.2 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





Ex. 3 (All 10 Positions, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



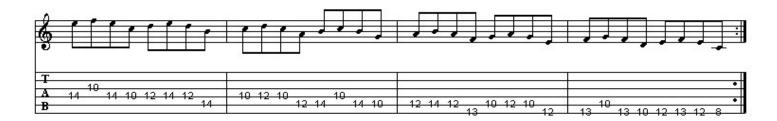
#### **Ex. 4** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





#### Ex. 5 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



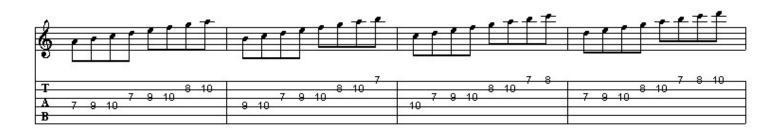


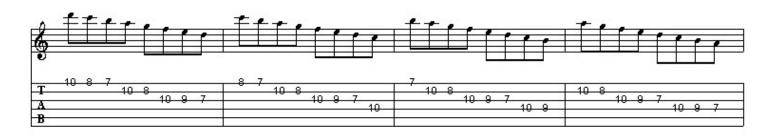
#### Ex. 6 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

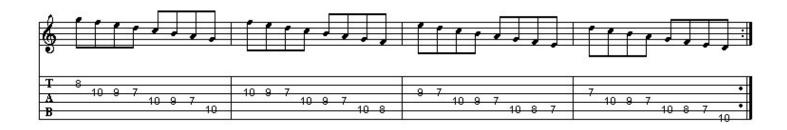


#### **Ex. 7** (Positions 1-8; 2-9; 3-10; 4-10; 5-10)

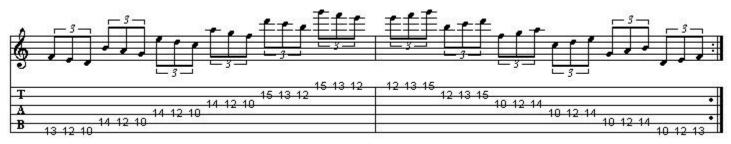








#### Ex. 8

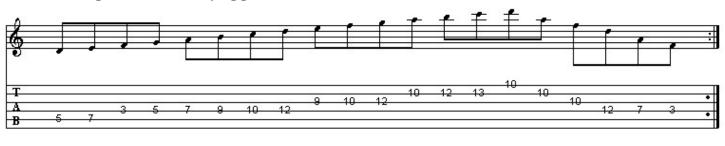


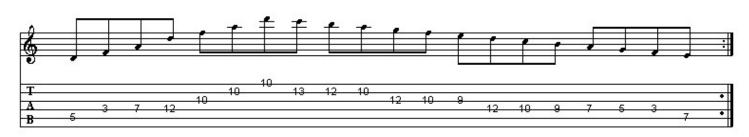
## Dorian Arpeggios

The following Arpeggios can be played in the Dorian Mode. Again, you'll notice that the scale degrees used in each arpeggio are derived from this mode.

Minor (1,b3,5) Minor 6<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,5,6) Minor 7<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,5,b7) Minor Add 2<sup>nd</sup> (1,2,b3,5) Minor Add 4<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,4,5)

# Alternating Scale / Arpeggio Exercises



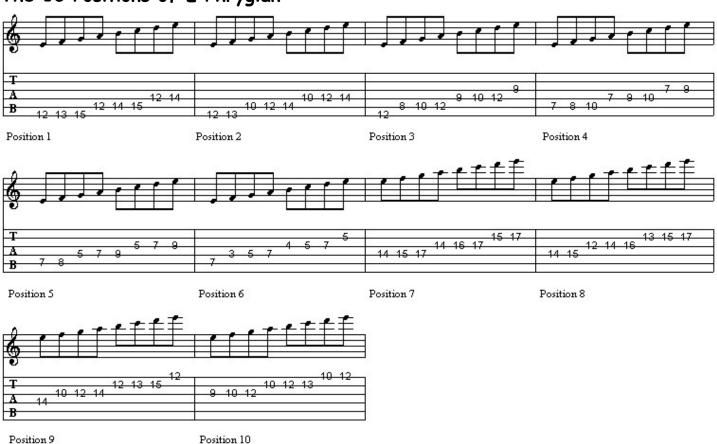


# The Phrygian Mode

The third mode of the Major Scale is called the Phrygian Mode (1,b2,b3,4,5,b6,b7). The lowered second makes this is a very dark, exotic sounding minor scale. The Phrygian Mode can be thought of as a Major Scale with lowered 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> degrees, or as simply a Natural Minor Scale with a lowered 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Phrygian Mode is played over minor chords or progressions. The most common chords would be Minor, Minor 7b9, and the 7susb9. Because the lowered 2<sup>nd</sup> (which translates to a lowered 9<sup>th</sup>) can sound rather harsh, this mode is not normally played over a Minor 7<sup>th</sup> chord unless the flat 9<sup>th</sup> is explicitly stated. It gives a "spanish" sound over the "phrygian chord" (1,b2,4,5,b7) otherwise known as a 7susb9 chord.

The 10 Positions of E Phrygian



# E Phrygian 3 Note Per String Pattern



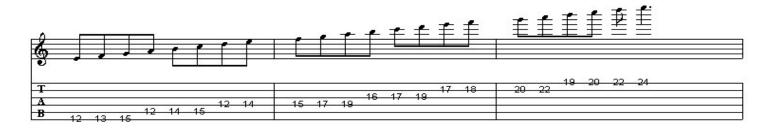
# E Phrygian 4 Note Per String Pattern

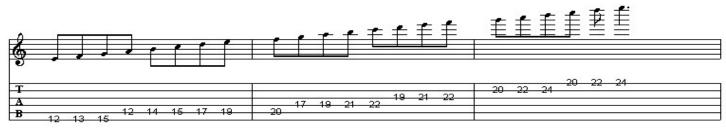


# E Phrygian Full Scale Patterns









## **Exercises**

Ex. 1 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





Ex. 2 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

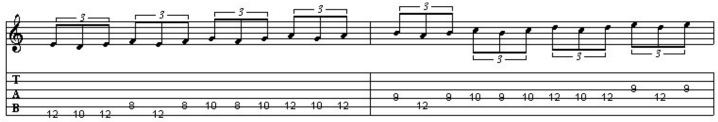


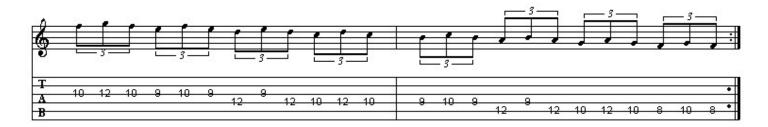


Ex. 3 (All 10 Positions, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



#### Ex. 4 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



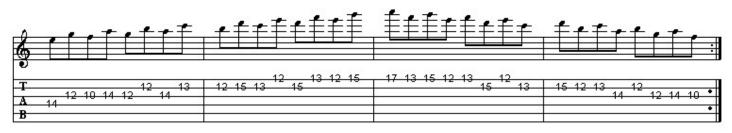


## Ex. 5 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

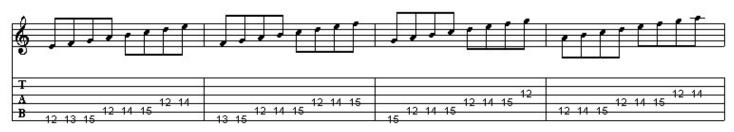


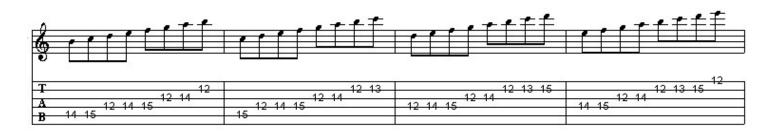


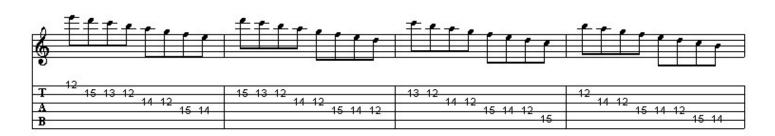
#### Ex. 6 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



#### **Ex. 7** (Positions 1-8; 2-9; 3-10; 4-10)









#### Ex. 8



# Phrygian Arpeggios

The following arpeggios can be played in the Phrygian Mode.

Minor (1,b3,5)

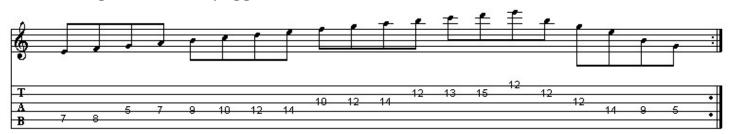
Minor b6<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,5,b6)

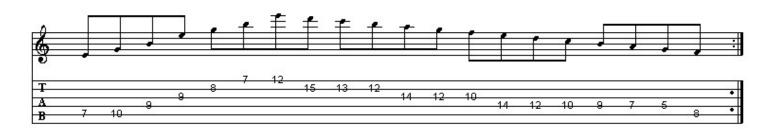
Minor 7<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,5,b7)

Minor Add b2<sup>nd</sup> (1,b2,b3,5)

Minor Add 4<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,4,5)

# Alternating Scale / Arpeggio Exercises



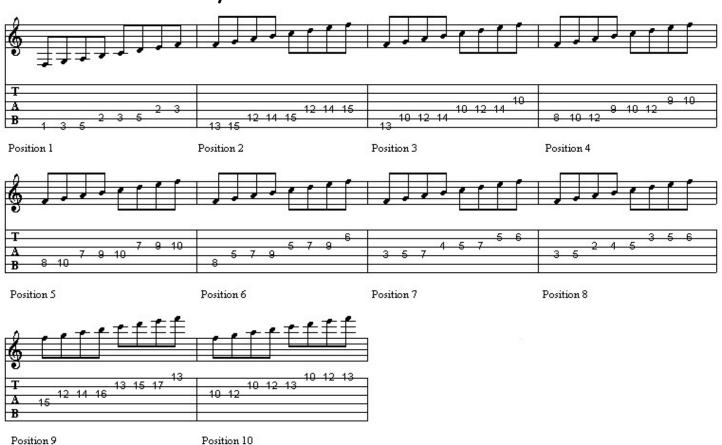


# The Lydian Mode

The third mode of the Major Scale is called the Lydian Mode (1,2,3,#4,5,6,7). It is derived from the Major Scale by raising the 4<sup>th</sup> degree. The Lydian scale is used more often than the Major Scale in rock soloing.

The Lydian Mode is played over major chords or progressions. The most common chords would be Major, Major 6<sup>th</sup>, Major 7<sup>th</sup>, and Major 9<sup>th</sup> as well as the suspended 2<sup>nd</sup> chord. It is preferred over the Ionian Mode when playing over a Major 7<sup>th</sup> chord.

The 10 Positions of F Lydian



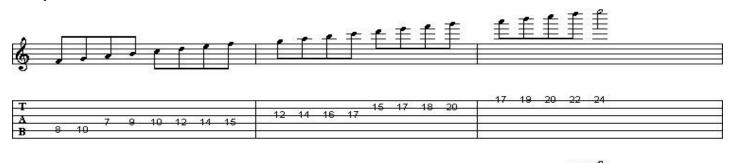
# F Lydian 3 Note Per String Pattern

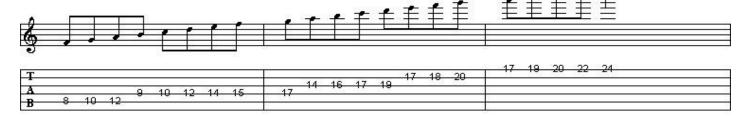


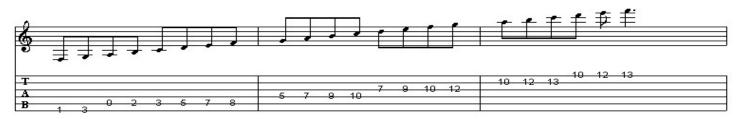
# F Lydian 4 Note Per String Pattern

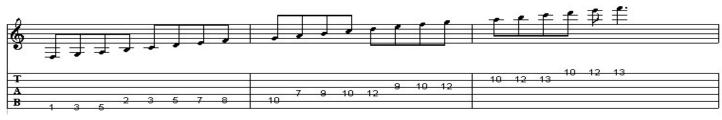


## F Lydian Full Scale Patterns



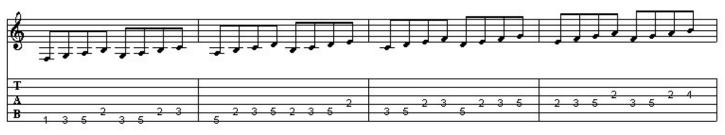






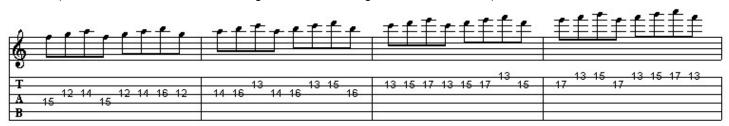
#### **Exercises**

**Ex. 1** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





Ex. 2 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



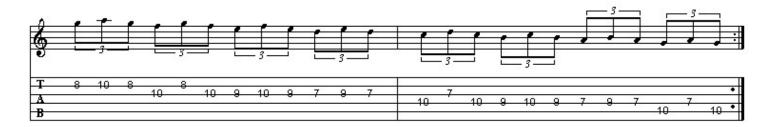


Ex. 3 (All 10 Positions, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



#### Ex. 4 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



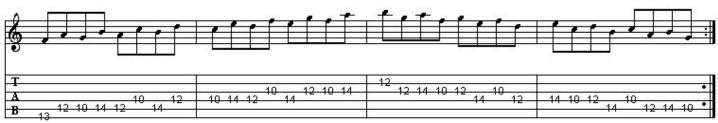


#### Ex. 5 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



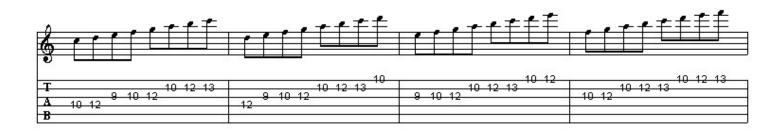


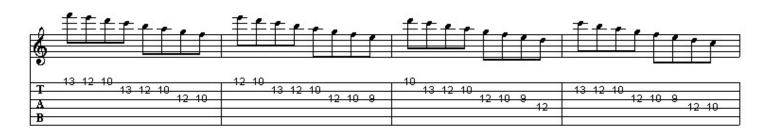
## Ex. 6 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



#### **Ex. 7** (Position 1-8; 2-9; 3-10; 4-10; 5-10)

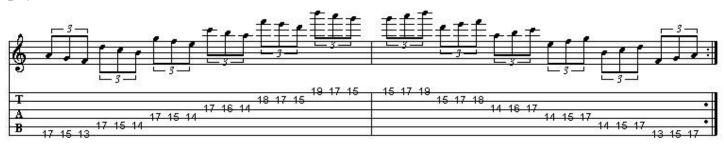








#### Ex. 8



# Lydian Arpeggios

The following Arpeggios can be played in the Lydian Mode.

Major (1,3,5)

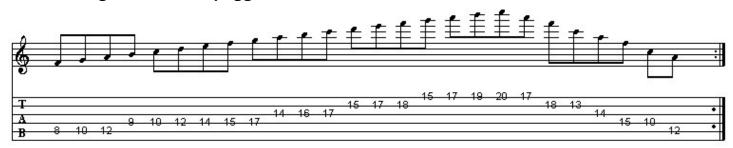
Major 6<sup>th</sup> (1,3,5,6)

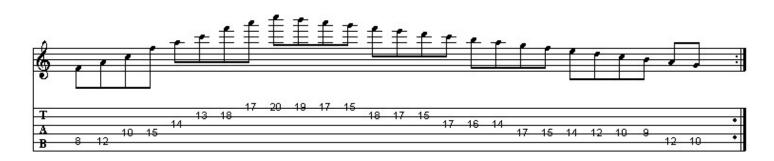
Major 7<sup>th</sup> (1,3,5,7)

Add  $2^{nd}$  (1,2,3,5)

Add #4th (1,3,#4,5)

# Alternating Scale / Arpeggio Exercises



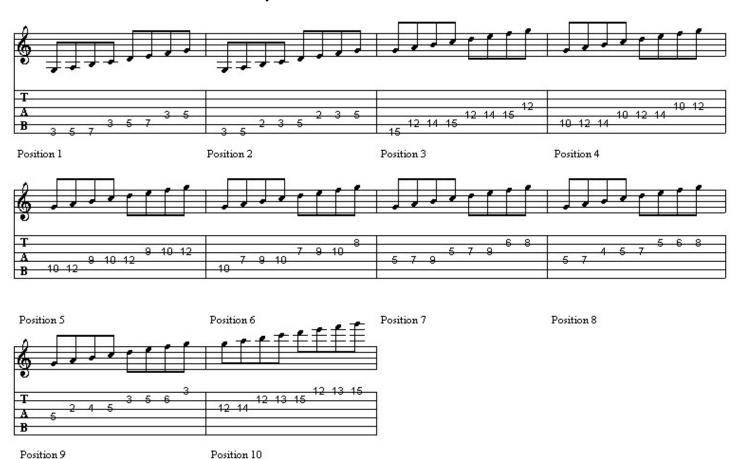


# The Mixolydian Mode

The fifth mode of the Major Scale is called the Mixolydian Mode (1,2,3,4,5,6,b7). It is derived from the Major Scale by lowering the 7<sup>th</sup> degree. Mixolydian is the "darkest" of the major sounding modes.

The Mixolydian Mode is played mainly over Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chords or other major chords not containing a Major 7<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> degree is somewhat of an "avoid" note over the Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chord, but with suspended chords there are no "avoid" notes. In G, the suspended chords would be Gsus2, Gsus4, and G7sus4. Some other chords that Mixolydian can play over in G would be F/G (F Major triad over G in the bass), Dm7/G (D Minor 7<sup>th</sup> over G in the bass), and G11.

The 10 Positions of G Mixolydian



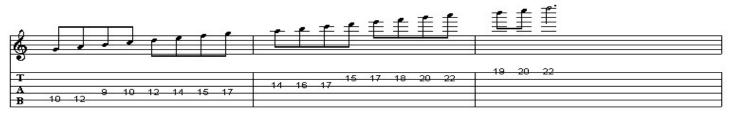
# G Mixolydian 3 Note Per String Pattern



# G Mixolydian 4 Note Per String Pattern



# G Mixolydian Full Scale Patterns



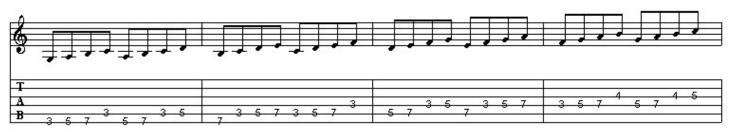






#### **Exercises**

Ex. 1 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





Ex. 2 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





Ex. 3 (All 10 Positions, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



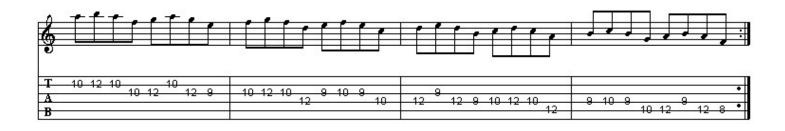
## Ex. 4 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





#### **Ex. 5** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

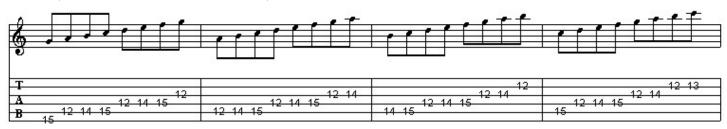


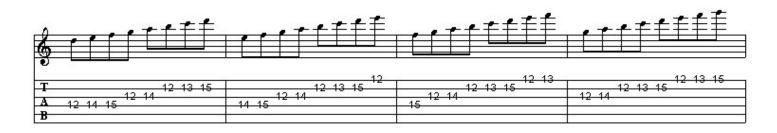


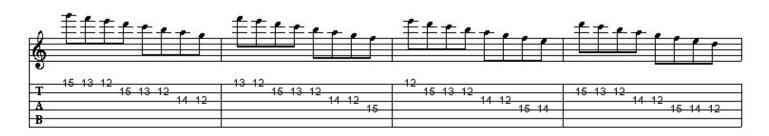
## Ex. 6 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

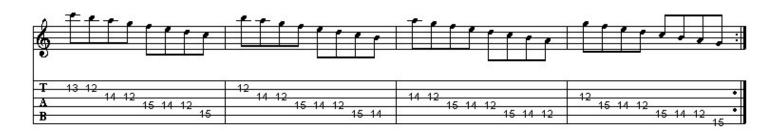


#### **Ex. 7** (Positions 1-8; 2-9; 3-10; 4-10; 5-10)

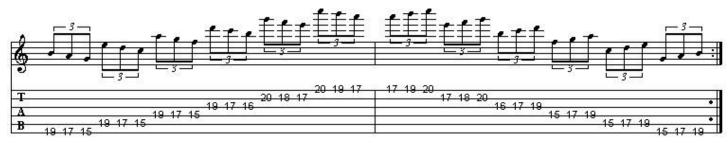








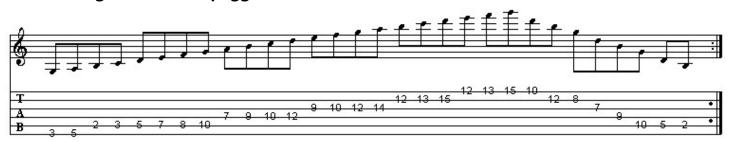
#### Ex. 8

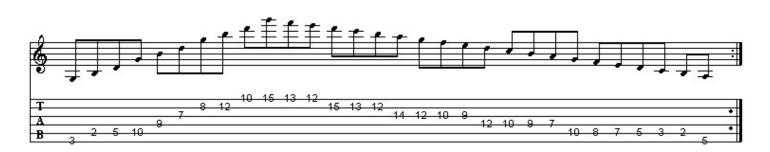


# Mixolydian Arpeggios

The following Arpeggios can be played in the Mixolydian Mode Major (1,3,5) Major 6<sup>th</sup> (1,3,5,6) Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> (1,3,5,b7) Added 2<sup>nd</sup> (1,2,3,5) Added 4<sup>th</sup> (1,3,4,5)

# Alternating Scale / Arpeggio Exercises





## The Aeolian Mode

The sixth mode of the Major Scale is called the Aeolian Mode (1,2,b3,4,5,b6,b7), and is generally referred to as the Natural Minor Scale or simply just the Minor Scale. It is derived from the Major Scale by lowering the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> degrees. It is also known as the 'relative minor' scale to its parent major scale (example: A is the relative minor to C Major).

The Aeolian Mode is played over minor chords or progressions. The most common chords would be Minor, Minor 7<sup>th</sup>, Minor 9<sup>th</sup>, and Minor 11<sup>th</sup> as well as suspended 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> chords depending on the tonality of the progression.

It should be stated however that the Aeolian Mode sounds fine over the Minor 7<sup>th</sup> chord, but the Dorian Mode is preferred.

The 10 Positions of A Aeolian

Position 1 Position 2 Position 3 Position 4

Position 1 Position 2 Position 3 Position 4

Position 5 Position 6 Position 7 Position 8

Position 5 Position 6 Position 7 Position 8

Position 10

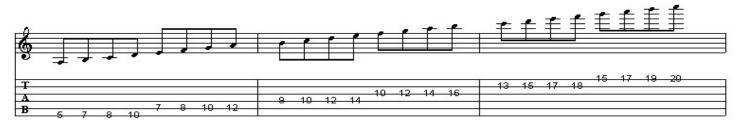
56

Position 9

# A Aeolian 3 Note Per String Pattern



## A Aeolian 4 Note Per String Pattern

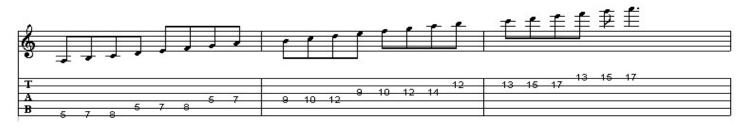


#### A Aeolian Full Scale Patterns





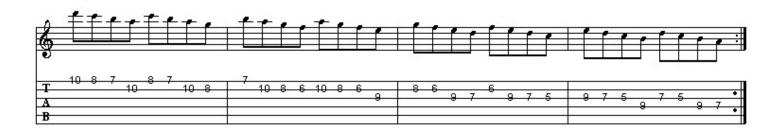




#### **Exercises**

**Ex. 1** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



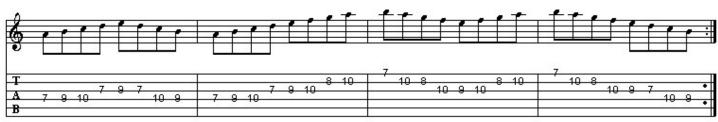


Ex. 2 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

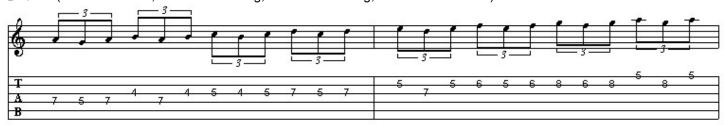




Ex. 3 (All 10 Positions, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



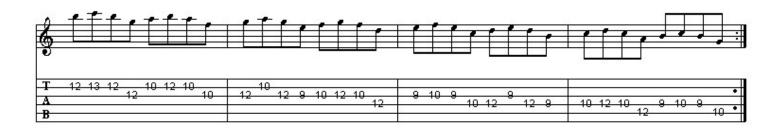
# **Ex. 4** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





#### Ex. 5 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

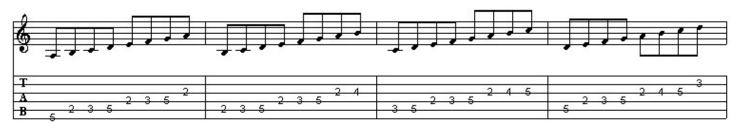




#### Ex. 6 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



#### **Ex. 7** (Positions 1-8; 2-9; 3-10, 4-10, 5-10)

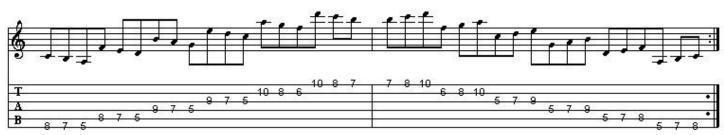








#### Ex. 8



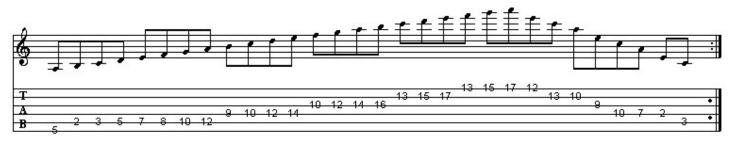
## Aeolian Arpeggios

The following Arpeggios can be played in the Aeolian Mode.

Minor (1,b3,5) Minor b6<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,5,b6) Minor 7<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,5,b7)

Minor Add 2<sup>nd</sup> (1,2,b3,5) Minor Add 4<sup>th</sup> (1,b3,4,5)

## Alternating Scale / Arpeggio Exercises



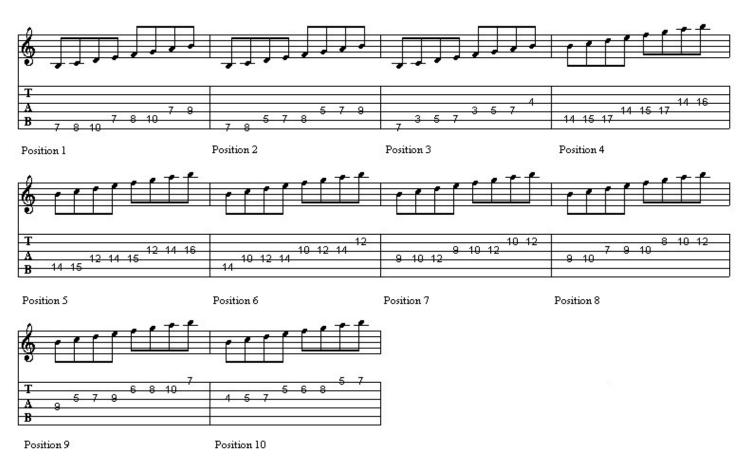


## The Locrian Mode

The final mode of the Major Scale is called the Locrian Mode (1,b2,b3,4,b5,b6,b7). It is not common in Western Music, but used quite frequently in Eastern Music. This is the darkest sounding of all the modes because of its diminished quality, the result of it first being minor (b3), and second, having a lowered 5<sup>th</sup> degree.

When it is used, it is usually played over half diminished seventh chords like the Bm7b5, which is similar to a Bm7 but with a lowered 5<sup>th</sup>. When played in this situation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of the scale is somewhat dissonant and therefore considered an avoid note.

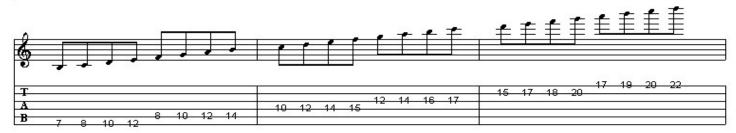
The 10 Positions of B Locrian



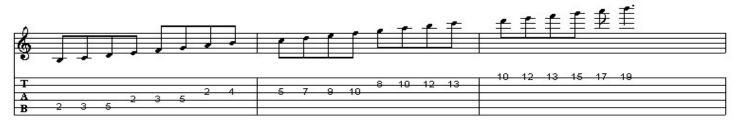
# B Locrian 3 Note Per String Patterns



# B Locrian 4 Note Per String Patterns



#### B Locrian Full Scale Patterns



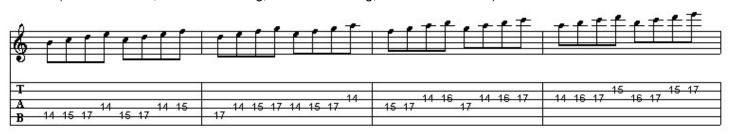


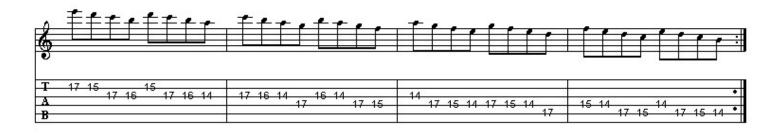




## **Exercises**

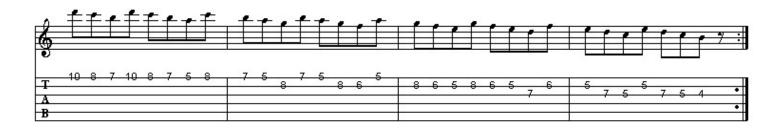
**Ex. 1** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



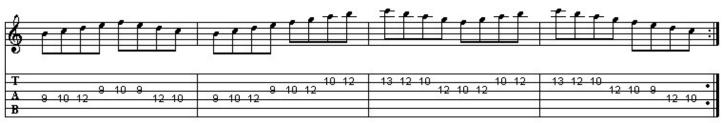


Ex. 2 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)





Ex. 3 (All 10 Positions, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



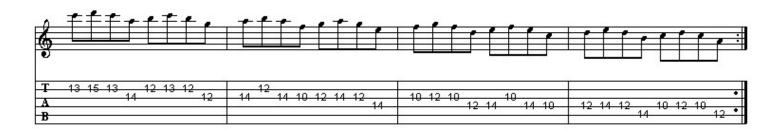
## Ex. 4 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)



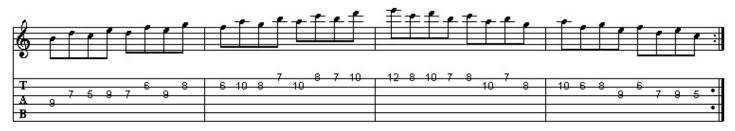


#### **Ex. 5** (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

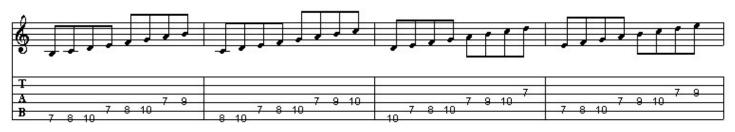


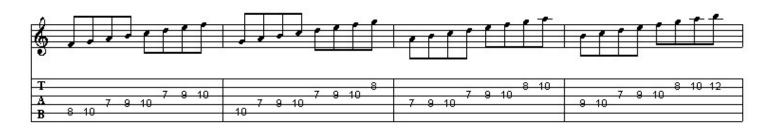


#### Ex. 6 (All 10 Positions, 3 Note Per String, 4 Note Per String, Full Scale Patterns)

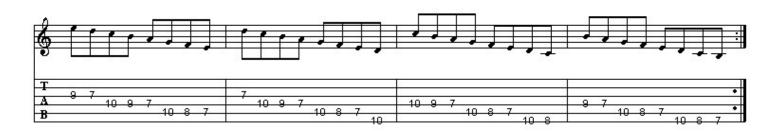


#### **Ex. 7** (Positions 1-8; 2-9; 3-10; 4-10; 5-10)

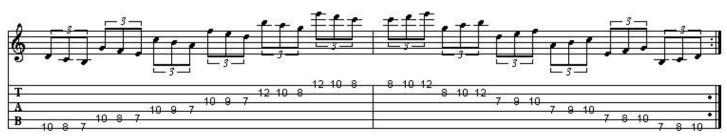








#### Ex. 8



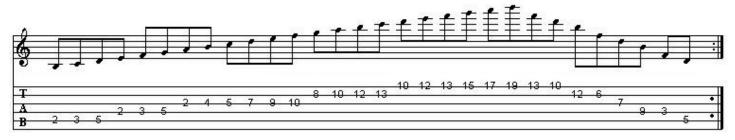
Let me take some time here to distinguish between Diminished Chords and Half Diminished Chords. The Diminished chord, or more correctly, the Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> Chord, is a chord consisting of 4 notes, the root, minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, flatted 5<sup>th</sup>, and a diminished 7<sup>th</sup> (which is a flatted minor 7<sup>th</sup>). The Half Diminished Chord consists of the root, minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, flatted 5<sup>th</sup>, and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>. So, for example, a B Diminished Chord contains the notes B,D,F, and Ab. The B Half Diminished consists of B,D,F, and A. The distinguishing difference is the 7<sup>th</sup> degree of the chord.

The Locrian Mode is played over the Half Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> Chord because the 7<sup>th</sup> degree of the chord matches the 7<sup>th</sup> degree of the scale.

The Diminished Scale is commonly played over the Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> Chord. This scale is different than the Locrian mode as you can see in its spelling (1,2,b3,4,b5,b6,bb7).

Just so that everything is covered, the symbol for the Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> Chord is the root followed by a small circle that looks like a degree mark. The symbol for the Half Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> Chord is the root followed by the circle with a slash through it.

## Alternating Scale / Arpeggio Exercises





# Section 3

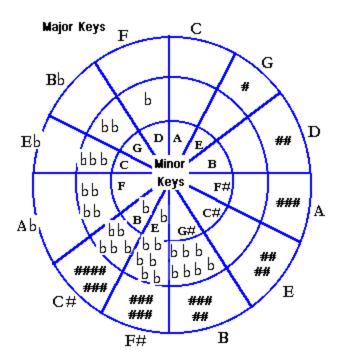
Circle of 5<sup>ths</sup>
Putting It All Together
Progressions
The Color Scale
Backwards Modal Approach

# Circle of 5ths

One of the most useful tools for learning your way around the fretboard quickly, and rather easily, is the Circle of 5<sup>ths</sup>. Its name comes from the fact that as you move clockwise, you go up a 5<sup>th</sup> from the previous key. For example, the 5<sup>th</sup> of C Major is G, the 5<sup>th</sup> of G Major is D, etc.

It has served two purposes for me over the years. The first is as a guideline for practicing exercises in every key, which I recommend you do with the exercises presented in this book, and second, it is also very useful in determining the key signatures for each key.

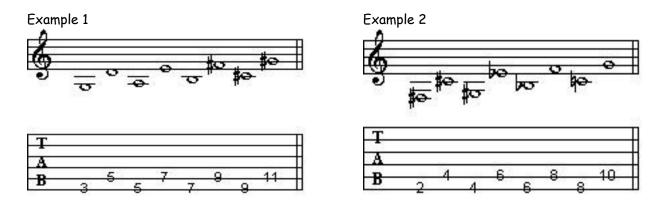
If we look at the diagram below, we see that it resembles the face of a clock. There are 12 scale degrees to it, one for each note in the Western music scale, arranged in 5<sup>ths</sup> traveling clockwise around the face and in 4<sup>ths</sup> traveling counter clockwise. Starting at C, as you go clockwise, the number of sharps increase by one, and going counter clockwise, the flats increase by one. In the center of the diagram are the relative minor keys for each Major Key.



You'll also notice that the key of C# is also known as Db, F# is also called Gb, and Cb is also called B. However, it is more common to see Db and B instead of C# and Cb.

## Sharps:

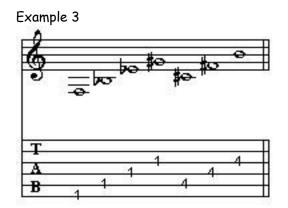
Here are two patterns that are useful in determining the number and name of sharp notes in any given key.

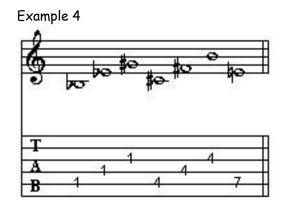


Because the key of 'C' has no sharps or flats, Example 1 will always begin on the note 'G'. If you follow along with the clockwise movement of the Circle of 5<sup>ths</sup>, you will realize that, starting with 'G', each note from Example 1 corresponds to each consecutive note, or key, in the Circle. Therefore, if you need to know how many sharps are in the key of E, play Example 1 counting the notes until you reach 'E' (7<sup>th</sup> fret, A string). The answer would be 4 sharps. This is when Example 2 comes into play. We use this example to find out the names of the sharp notes. So, in the key of E, since we counted 4 notes to get to 'E' in Example 1, we count the first 4 notes in Example 2 to find out the names of the notes. They are F#, C#, G#, and D# respectively. From this we see that the key of E is spelled E, F#, G#, A, B, C#, D#.

#### Flats:

Here are two examples that are useful in determining the number and name of flat notes in any given key.





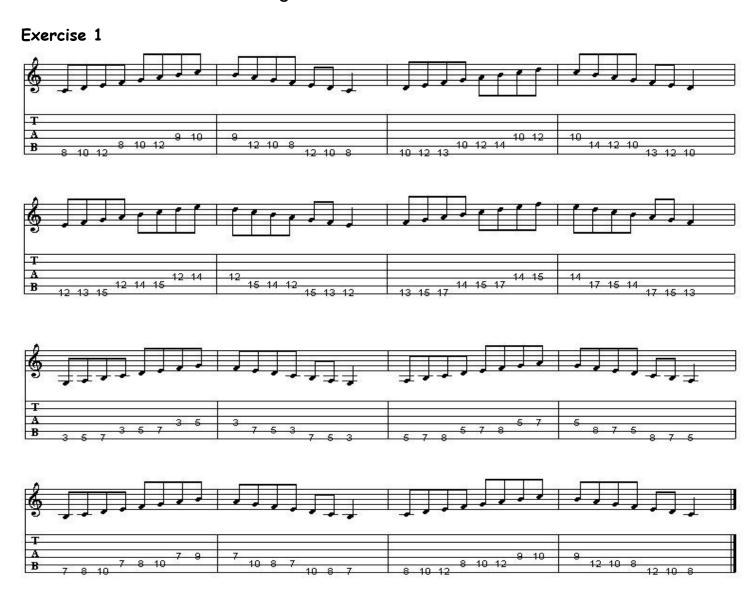
The same principles for determining sharp notes works with flats as well, only we have two new patterns to learn for this. Let's take the key of Eb for example, and work the same way as we did in the previous example, only this time using Examples 3 and 4 as guidelines in order to determine the number and names of the flats. If we play Example 3, we play 3 notes until we get to Eb. Therefore, there are 3 flats in the key of Eb. Then, using Example 4, we see that the flat notes are Bb, Eb, and Ab respectively. From this we can devise that the key of Eb is spelled Eb, F, G, Ab, Bb, C, D.

# Putting It All Together

Now that we have learned the various patterns and exercises for each of the seven modes of the Major Scale, it's time to put this knowledge to use in our everyday playing and practicing.

## Practicing:

Thus far, we have learned to play each scale/mode in its respective patterns. Here we have a few ideas that incorporate all of the modes together into various exercises that are helpful in learning how the modes relate to each other all over the neck of the guitar.

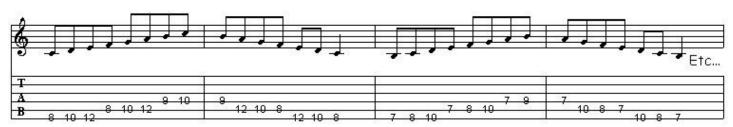


You'll notice that the previous exercise utilizes the 1<sup>st</sup> Position of each mode in a successive progression upward through the modes. This exact idea can be duplicated for each of the 10 Positions

- ◆ All Modes, Position I in succession
- All Modes, Position II in succession
- ◆ All Modes, Position III in succession
- ◆ All Modes, Position IV in succession
- ◆ All Modes, Position V in succession
- ◆ All Modes, Position VI in succession
- ◆ All Modes, Position VII in succession
- ◆ All Modes, Position VIII in succession
- ◆ All Modes, Position IX in succession
- All Modes, Position X in succession

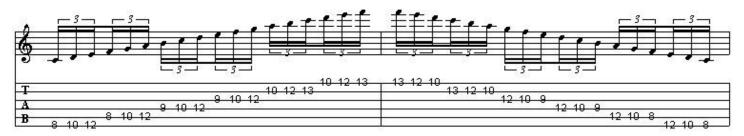
You can also play this progression backwards through the modes... as in the exercise below.

#### Exercise 2



Taking this idea and applying it to the 3 Note Per String Patterns gives us this exercise.

#### Exercise 3

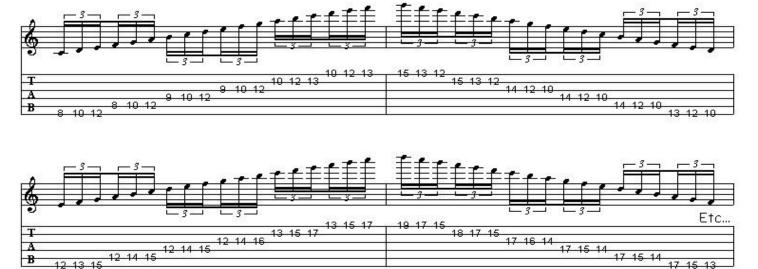




- \*This progression can also be practiced backwards through the modes
- \*Apply this same principle to the 4 Note Per String Patterns and the Full Scale Patterns.

There are an infinite amount of variations that can be applied to this idea. Below is a simple exercise in which we ascend using one mode and descend using the next higher mode.

#### Exercise 4

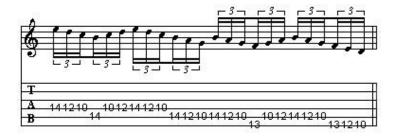


Exercise 5 is another variation on this same idea. Practice this both ascending and descending through the modes.

## Exercise 5







The previous 5 exercises should give you an idea of how the modes interact with one another ascending and descending over the neck of the guitar. Practice these exercises in every key (refer to the circle of 5<sup>ths</sup>) and then come up with some of your own variations on these ideas. For starters, you can use some of the exercises in Section 2 as a basis for your own variations.

## **Progressions**

When playing over a chord progression in which all the chords are derived from a single key, it can be highly efficient and effective to simply improvise using the scale of that key over the whole progression.

## IC F Am G I

This progression comes directly from the key of C Major. Therefore, we can play in C Major throughout the whole progression. To make things a little more interesting, we can play a different mode over each chord if desired. For instance, you can play A Aeolian over the Am chord (which would keep you in the key of C), or you could play in A Dorian over the Am chord. The same can be said of the major chords.

The modes really come into play when you're playing over a progression in which the chords are not all from a single key.

## ICFCGDI

This progression is in C Major, but the D major chord (D, F#, A) deviates from the key. The note F# is not in the key of C, but the C Major scale would work over this progression, as long as the F in the scale isn't played over the D.

The D Major chord is functioning as the ii chord which is minor in major keys. Therefore, if this progression stayed in key, the D would be a minor chord. Since this is not the case, we must find a way to play over the D Major chord while keeping true to the tonal center of the progression.

A more professional approach would be to use the C Lydian mode over the D Major chord. C Lydian contains the same notes as C major except for one. As we already know, the Lydian mode is a major mode with a raised 4<sup>th</sup> degree. In C, this 4<sup>th</sup> degree is an F, or in the Lydian mode, an F#.

You will often see chords written out in their numeric relation to the major key of the song. In a major key, the major chords are based off the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> notes of the scale. The minor chords are based off the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> notes of the scale. The half diminished chord is based off the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the scale. This should look familiar. The tonality of each mode is the same as the tonality of its respective chord in relation to the major scale.

When these chords are written out numerically, an uppercase roman numeral signifies a Major chord. A lowercase roman numeral signifies a Minor chord. A diminished chord is designated by a lower case roman numeral with a degree sign to its right.

## Major

The chords in the major keys are spelled out: I ii iii IV V vi vii°. In the following examples, the chords that do not fit into the key of the progression are in italics.

## **Ionian**

We already have one example above in which we used the Lydian Mode. Below is an example where we substitute the Mixolydian Mode.

l ii IV V l ii IV *vm* 

This progression stays in key until the last chord in bar 2. Here the V chord in the second bar becomes minor. In C, this would be a G minor chord spelled G Bb D. The Bb is a minor 7<sup>th</sup> degree in C major, therefore we can use the Mixolydian mode as a substitute for C Ionian over the G minor.

## Lydian

Here are two progressions based around the Lydian Mode.

I IV I V ii I IV I V *bVII* I

Because this progression is based around the IV chord in the Major Scale, it becomes a Lydian progression. In the key of C, F Lydian would work over the whole progression, except for the bVII chord which would be Bb Major (Bb, D, F). We have a number of scale options to play over this chord... we could use F Mixolydian because of the natural 4<sup>th</sup> degree as well as F Ionian. We could also use Bb Ionian or Bb Lydian which would be the better choice of the two. Bb Mixolydian would not be a good choice because of the minor 7<sup>th</sup> (G#).

## IV im7 ii vi IV im vii° vi

Basing this in the key of C, we can use the F Lydian mode for the majority of the progression. For the im7 chord (Cmin7), we can use Mixolydian. Cmin7 is made up of C, Eb, G, Bb. In F, the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree is G, the 4<sup>th</sup> degree is Bb, the 5<sup>th</sup> degree is C, and the minor 7<sup>th</sup> is Eb. Therefore, F Mixolydian would be a good scale to use over that chord. When we play the im chord (Cmin) in the second bar, we can choose between F Mixolydian and F Ionian because the 7<sup>th</sup> degree (Eb) has been left out of the chord.

## Mixolydian

Here are two progressions based in the Mixolydian mode.

IV I ii vi IV I bviisus IV I

The chord that is out of key is the bviisus chord, or Bbsus in the key of C. We have two options if we are to keep the tonal center of the progression in G as we play over this chord. The spelling of this chord is Bb, C, F. We can play a G Dorian mode or G Aeolian. The only difference between the two is the 6<sup>th</sup> degree which will either be E (Dorian) or Eb (Aeolian).

V ii vi IV V ii *VI* I

Since the VI chord is major, the 4<sup>th</sup> degree of the Mixolydian mode will be raised. In the key of C, this would make the vi chord (Am) a major chord making the C into a C#. Therefore, you can play a G Lydian mode over this chord because it contains the raised 4<sup>th</sup> degree.

## Minor

Often times chords based in minor keys are given the same roman numeral as in the major keys. For the times that this isn't the case, the minor chords are spelled out: i ii° III iv v VI VII. For the purposes of this book, we are going to approach the minor keys using the roman numerals for the chords in relation to the major keys since that is more commonly seen.

#### Dorian

Here are two progressions based in the Dorian mode.

The chord that is out of key is the VII chord. If we're based in the key of C, you can play in D Dorian over every chord except the VII chord, which in this case would be B major. Because B major contains an F#, we would have to play a D Mixolydian scale over this chord instead of D Dorian.

Again, the chord that is out of key is the VII chord, but this time it is flatted. In C, this would be a Bb major. The note in this chord that strays from the D Dorian scale is Bb. In order to play over this chord without the fear of any bad notes, we can play in D Aeolian. This lowers the 6<sup>th</sup> note of the Dorian mode from a B to a Bb.

## Phrygian

Here are two progressions in the Phrygian mode.

By now you should be able to notice that the II chord is out of key. In C, we can play E Phrygian throughout this progression, but over the II chord we will need to change modes. The easiest mode to play over this chord would be E Aeolian, but if the II chord is a major 7<sup>th</sup> chord, you could play in E Dorian.

This is an interesting sounding progression that utilizes a chord that has 2 notes in it that are out of key. The #v, or in C, the G#min, contains a G# and D# that would cause problems if we just played an E Phrygian scale throughout the piece. Since E Ionian contains both of these notes, that would be a good scale to use over this chord, with the F# that E Ionian provides adding some harmonic flavor.

#### Aeolian

Here are two progressions based in the Aeolian mode.

In this first example, the bVII chord in the second measure is out of key. In C, this would be a Bb major chord (Bb, D, F). The note that strays from the key is the Bb. Playing an A Phrygian over this chord would work since the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of the scale (B) is flat (Bb).

In this example, the viim chord is out of key. It would normally act as a diminished chord, but in this progression it is acting as a minor chord. In C, this would be a Bmin (B, D, F#). The out of key note is the F#. You can use A Aeolian through this progression except over the viim chord, in which case it would be best to use A Dorian because it contains an F# as the raised 6<sup>th</sup> degree.

#### Locrian

Here is a progression using the Locrian mode. Progressions based in this mode are rather uncommon.

The chord that is out of key is the II which would normally be minor if we stayed in key throughout this progression. The Locrian mode can be played over this progression provided that the 5<sup>th</sup> degree isn't played or is raised while playing over the II chord. An easier approach would be to play the Phrygian mode over this chord since the only difference between it and the Locrian mode is the raised 5<sup>th</sup> degree.

These examples should give you a pretty good idea on how to use the modes and how to substitute them with one another throughout different progressions and over different chords. Hopefully this will help you to analyze the progressions that you play over in your own music so you can come up with creative melodic ideas.

## The Color Scale

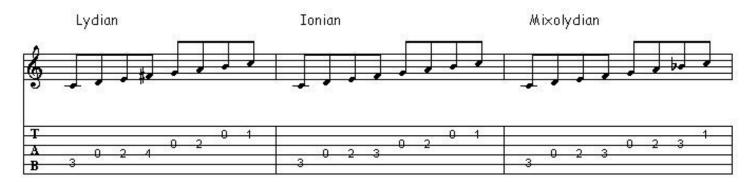
Musicians paint a picture with songs in the attempt to convey some type of mood or feeling to the listener. Like the different colored paints that an artist uses to bring a barren canvas to life, the scales that we use define the mood, or color, of the picture (song) that we are painting.

The diagram below is what's known as the Color Scale. It arranges the Modes that we have talked about in Section 2 in order from the brightest sounding to the darkest sounding. Obviously the 3 major modes will come first since the major tonality (the major third) has a bright and "happy" sound to it. The 3 minor modes come next because the minor tonality (the minor third) has a darker, "sad" sound. Last is the Locrian Mode since both the minor 3<sup>rd</sup> and diminished 5<sup>th</sup> make this scale the darkest and most sinister sounding of the 7 modes.

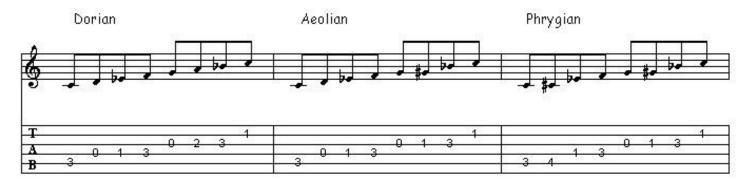
#### Color Scale Diagram:

Lydian	Ionian	Mixolydian	Dorian	Aeolian	Phrygian	Locrian

To get a better idea of exactly what all this means and how these modes vary in their color, play the following scales over a C Major chord.



Play the following scales over a C Minor chord.



To get the feel of that dark, sinister sound, play this last scale over a C half diminished chord, also known as a Cm7b5 chord (which is included in the diagram below).



If you don't hear the difference in "colors" at first, don't worry. It may take a little bit of time to train your ear to distinguish the differences between these scales. Keep practicing and listening. Before you know it, you'll be able to distinguish a Mixolydian Mode from a Phrygian Mode just by ear.

## Backwards Modal Approach

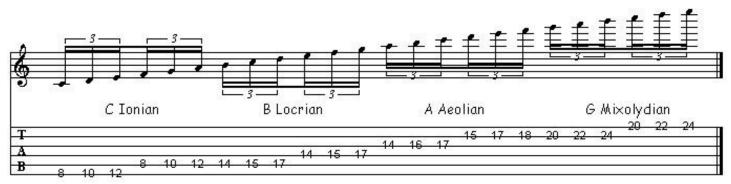
Here is a fresh and exciting approach to improvising long, scalular runs. This is where knowing the 10 Positions for each mode will come in real handy as well.

The concept is extremely simple, take the 3 note per string idea and play the first 6 notes in the mode you're basing the run off of. Then, being sure to keep everything based on that scale, play the next 6 notes in the mode prior to the one you just used. Play the next 6 notes in the previous mode and so on.

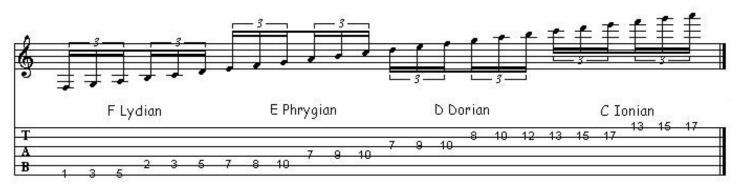
Let's look at some examples. The first 2 examples are both based in the Key of C Major. The run in Example 1 begins in C Ionian, but you'll notice that after the first 6 notes, we are playing a Locrian pattern in B. The third group of notes is an A Aeolian pattern, and the final group of 6 notes constitute a G Mixolydian pattern. Do these look and sound familiar? What's happening is that we are going backwards in the modes of C Major, starting on C Ionian, then B Locrian, then A Aeolian and so on. Make sense?

Example 2 is the same thing, just starting on F Lydian. Because we're in the key of C (remember, F Lydian is the 4<sup>th</sup> mode of C Major), the next grouping of notes make up an E Phrygian pattern. The next pattern is D Dorian, and finally we end up on a C Ionian pattern.

## Example 1



## Example 2



Now let's make this a little more difficult since most songs are not in C Major. Drawing from the example in the section on The Circle of 5<sup>ths</sup>, let's look at a run in the key of E Major. We already know that E Major is spelled E, F#, G#, A, B, C#, D#. From this we can determine that the modes in E Major are E Ionian, F# Dorian, G# Phrygian, A Lydian, B Mixolydian, C# Aeolian, and D# Locrian.

Example 3 is a run based in G# Phrygian. So, with the Backwards Modal Approach, we construct this run starting with a G# Phrygian pattern, the next grouping of 6 notes is from an F# Dorian pattern and so on up the neck. Just a quick note... notice the key signature at the beginning of this example... (4 Sharps = Key of E Major)

#### Example 3



These examples signify only one of many ways to play the scale. Try coming up with your own patterns and fingerings. For example, begin your run on the A string. You don't always have to make each grouping of notes a 3 note per string pattern. You could substitute another pattern from the 10 Positions into the run or just simply change directions. Another idea is to change the feel of the run from sextuplets to eighth notes or any other selection of note groupings mid way through the run. One last idea is to bend notes into pitch instead of fingering every note. By throwing some of these ideas into your playing, you'll start developing your own unique style.

# Section 4

Scale/Chord Relationships Synthetic and Exotic Scales

## Scale / Chord Relationships

The chart below contains a list of scales that relate to different chords. You will notice that the chords are listed with the root of C. When you want to apply this chart to chords with other roots, just transpose the scales by the same interval as you would the chord. So, for example, if you want to find out what would work over an A chord, you should transpose the scales down a step and a half. This would give you A Ionian, A Lydian, A Major Pentatonic and E Major Pentatonic.

	<u>Chords</u>	Common Scales		
<u>Major Chords</u>				
	C, C6, Cmaj7, Cmaj 9	C Ionian, C Lydian, C Major Pentatonic, G Major Pentatonic		
	Cmaj7#11	C Lydian		
	Cmaj7#5	C Lydian Augmented		
Minor Chords				
	Cm, Cm6, Cm7	C Dorian, C Minor (except m13), C Minor Pentatonic,		
	Cm11, Cm13	C Blues, F Major Pentatonic		
	Cm(maj7)	C Harmonic Minor, C Melodic Minor		
	Cm7b13, Cm7b6	C Minor, Ab Major Pentatonic		
	Cm, Cm7, Cm7b9	C Phrygian		
Dominant Chords				
	C, C7, C7sus,C9, C9sus			
	Csus, C11, C13, C13sus	C Mixolydian, C Blues, C Major Pentatonic, F Major Pentatonic		
	Bb/ <i>C</i> , <i>G</i> m7/ <i>C</i>			
	<i>C</i> 7b5, <i>C</i> 7#11	C Lydian Dominant		
	C7b5, C7b9, C7b9b5	C Half Whole Diminished, C Phrygian Dominant, F Harmonic Minor		

	C7#5, C7b13, C7b5	C Whole Tone, F Melodic Minor		
	C7#9, C7#9#5	F Harmonic Minor, C Super Locrian		
	C7susb9	F Harmonic Minor, C Phrygian, C Phrygian #6		
Half Diminished &				
Diminished Chords				
	Cdim, Cm7b5	C Locrian, C Locrian #2, Bb Harmonic Minor		
	Cdim, Cdim7,	C Diminished, C Whole Half Diminished		

## Synthetic and Exotic Scales

Below are a number of other scales that have interesting tonal qualities to them. Although this section is beyond the scope of this book, try playing these over their respective major and minor chords to hear the sonic qualities inherent in each one. For quick reference, major chords consist of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> notes from the scale degree on which you are starting, while minor chords consist of the 1<sup>st</sup>, b3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> degrees.

If you're feeling very adventurous, you can learn the scales that interest you in the 10 Positions, 3 and 4 Note Per String Patterns, and the Full Scale Patterns. Then practice them using the exercises in this book. Get creative and have fun!

**Acoustic "Bartok"** (1,2,3,4,5,b6,b7)

Aka Aeolian Dominant & Hindu

**Aeolian Dominant** (1,2,3,4,5,b6,b7)

Aka Acoustic "Bartok" & Hindu

**Algerian** (1,2,b3,#4,5,b6,7,8,9,b10,11)

**Arabian** (1,2,b3,4,b5,b6,6,7)

**Augmented** (1,b3,3,5,#5,7)

**Balinese** (1,b2,b3,5,b6)

**BeBop** (1,2,3,4,5,6,b7,7)

**Blues** (1,b3,4,b5,5,b7)

**Byzantine** (1,b2,3,4,5,b6,7)

Aka Double Harmonic & Gypsy

**Chinese** (1,3,#4,5,7)

**Diminished** (1,2,b3,4,b5,b6,bb7,)

**Dominant Diminished** (1,b2,b3,3,#4,5,6,b7)

Aka Half Whole Diminished & Symmetrical

**Dorian**, #4 (1,2,63,#4,5,6,67)

**Double Harmonic** (1,b2,3,4,5,b6,7)

Aka Byzantine & Gypsy

**Egyptian** (1,2,4,5,b7)

**Enigmatic** (1,b2,3,#4,#5,#6,7)

**Gypsy** (1,b2,3,4,5,b6,7)

Aka Byzantine & Double Harmonic

Half Whole Diminished (1,b2,b3,3,#4,5,6,b7)

Aka Dominant Diminished & Symmetrical

**Harmonic Minor** (1,2,b3,4,5,b6,7)

Aka Mohammedan

**Hawaiian** (1,2,63,(4),5,6,7)

Aka Melodic Minor Ascending & Jazz Minor

**Hexatonic** (1,2,b3,4,5,b7)

**Hindu** (1,2,3,4,5,b6,b7)

Aka Acoustic "Bartok" & Aeolian Dominant

Hirajoshi (1,2,63,5,66)

**Hungarian Gypsy** (1,2,b3,#4,5,b6,b7)

Hungarian Major (1,#2,3,#4,5,6,b7)

**Hungarian Minor** (1,2,b3,#4,5,b6,7)

**Iwato** (1,b2,4,b5,b7)

**Japanese** (1,b2,4,5,b6)

Japanese (Traditional) (1,2,63,5,66)

**Javanese** (1,b2,b3,4,5,6,b7)

**Jazz Minor** (1,2,63,4,5,6,7)

Aka Melodic Minor Ascending & Hawaiian

**Jewish** (1,b2,3,4,5,b6,b7)

Aka Phrygian Dominant & Spanish

**Kumoi** (1,2,b3,5,6)

**Leading Whole Tone** (1,2,3,#4,#5,#6,7)

**Locrian Major** (1,2,3,4,65,66,67)

**Locrian**, #2 (1,#2,b3,4,b5,b6,b7)

**Lydian Augmented** (1,2,3,#4,#5,6,7)

**Lydian Dominant** (1,2,3,#4,5,6,b7)

Aka Overtone

**Lydian Minor** (1,2,3,#4,5,b6,b7)

**Major Locrian** (1,2,3,4,b5,b6,b7)

Melodic Minor Ascending (1,2,b3,4,5,6,7)

Aka Hawaiian & Jazz Minor

**Mixo-Blues** (1,#2,3,4,b5,5,b7)

**Mohammedan** (1,2,b3,4,5,b6,7)

Aka Harmonic Minor

**Mongolian** (1,2,3,5,6)

**Neapolitan Major** (1,b2,b3,4,5,6,7)

**Neapolitan Minor** (1,b2,b3,4,5,b6,7)

**Oriental** (1,b2,3,4,b5,6,b7)

**Overtone** (1,2,3,#4,5,6,b7)

Aka Lydian Dominant

**Pelog** (1,b2,b3,5,b6)

Pentatonic Major (1,2,3,5,6,)

Pentatonic Minor (1,b3,4,5,b7)

**Persian** (1,b2,3,4,b5,b6,7)

**Phrygian Dominant** (1,b2,3,4,5,b6,b7)

Aka Jewish & Spanish

**Piongio** (1,2,4,5,6,b7)

**Prometheus** (1,2,3,#4,6,b7)

**Ritusen** (1,2,4,5,6)

**Romanian Minor** (1,2,b3,#4,5,6,b7)

**Scriabin** (1,b2,3,5,6)

**Six Tone Symmetrical** (1,b2,3,4,#5,6)

**Spanish** (1,b2,3,4,5,b6,b7)

Aka Jewish & Phrygian Dominant

**Spanish 8 Tone** (1,b2,b3,3,4,b5,b6,b7)

**Super Locrian** (1,b2,b3,b4,b5,b6,b7)

**Symmetrical** (1,b2,b3,3,#4,5,6,b7)

Aka Dom. Diminished & Half Whole Diminished

Whole Half Diminished (1,2,63,4,#4,#5,6,7)

Whole Tone (1,2,3,#4,#5,#6)

## About the Author

Multi-platinum award winning guitarist Michael Elsner was raised in the artistic community of Woodstock, New York, and began playing the guitar at the age of 12.

In 2006, his solo album "Stained Voodoo, took home the award for Instrumental Album of the Year at the LA Music Awards.

An accomplished songwriter and producer, he currently has over 2000 placements of original music on TV Shows, Films, Commercials, and Movie Trailers, including, American Idol, The Voice, Cold Case, EXTRA, The Sing-Off, Impractical Jokers, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Hannah Montana, High School Musical 2, Audi, Mazda, and Skechers.

His music has been featured in the trailers for Disney's Cinderella, Amazon Prime's Jack Ryan, Ocean's 8, The Appearing, The Condemned 2, Mark Felt, and many others.

Michael is an endorsing artist for McPherson Guitars, Schecter Gutiars, Kemper Amplifiers, Westone In-Ear Monitors, Truetone Guitar Pedals, EMG Pickups, Propellerhead Software and Klutz Guitar Cable.

To keep up to date on his endeavors, visit him online at <a href="www.MichaelElsner.com">www.MichaelElsner.com</a>.