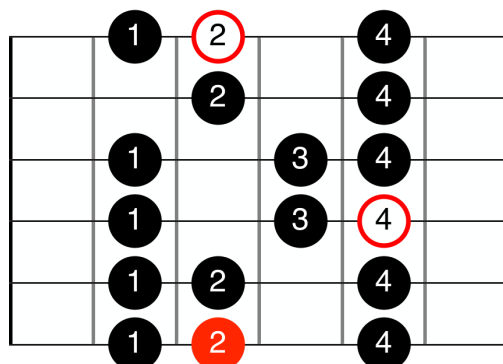


Guitar Modes

- How to Read a Scale Chart
- Fretboard Diagrams
- What Are Modes?
- Ionian Mode Diagrams
- Dorian Mode Diagrams
- Phrygian Mode Diagrams
- Lydian Mode Diagrams
- Mixolydian Mode Diagrams
- Aeolian Mode Diagrams
- Locrian Mode Diagrams

How to Read a Scale Chart

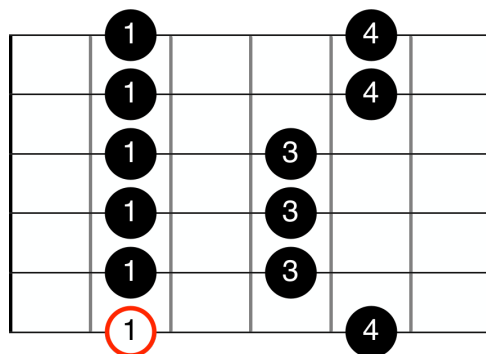


• Each scale chart shows six horizontal lines representing the six strings. The bottom line is the 6th string (thickest). The top line is the 1st string (thinnest).

• The vertical lines represent frets. The line on the left is the end of the guitar (the nut). The next vertical line to the right is the 1st fret, then 2nd fret, 3rd fret, etc.

- The numbers inside the circles are finger numbers.
- Start playing at the **solid red** circle. This is the tonic, or foundation of your scale. (The **open red** circles are tonic notes in other octaves.)
- From there, play left to right, or low to high. (In this diagram, you won't play the first finger on the 6th string right away.)
- Move to the next string, playing from low to high.
- Play to the 1st string and then reverse directions, playing from high to low (right to left) until you reach the starting note.
- If there are any notes remaining on the low strings, play past the starting note to the lowest sounding note in the chart, and then play back up to the starting note.

Moveable Scale Forms and Fretboard Diagrams

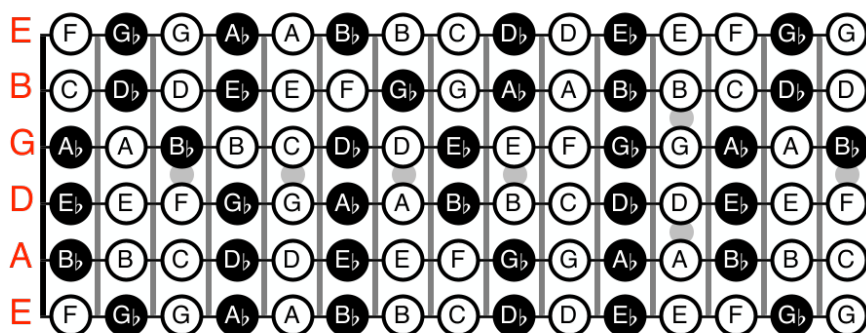


Every scale chart in this document is moveable. Because there are no open strings, you can play each scale form anywhere on the fretboard. For example, the scale chart on the left is a minor pentatonic scale. If you start where it is written in this diagram, you would call it either Gb or F# Minor Pentatonic because it begins on the 6th string, 2nd fret, which is the note Gb/F#.

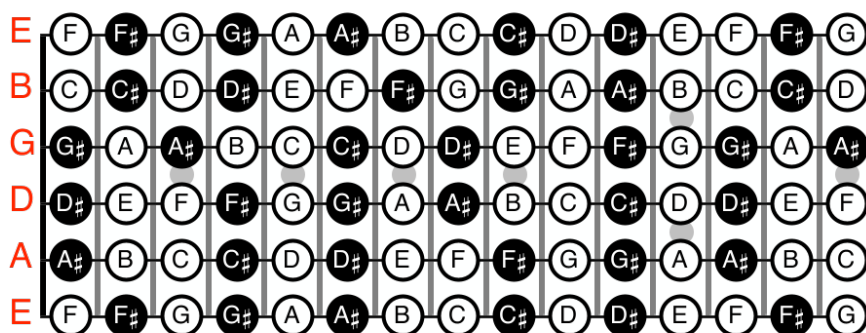
If you move up the fretboard and start on the 7th fret, 6th string (the note B), it becomes B Minor Pentatonic.

The diagrams below show the notes on the fretboard. If you need help learning the fretboard, you can find the free [Learning the Fretboard PDF](#) on my website at GodfreyGuitarLessons.com/downloads.

Non-Natural Notes Spelled as Flats



Non-Natural Notes Spelled as Sharps



What Are Modes?

Before discussing modes, be aware that **Guitar Modes** is an addendum to the **Guitar Scales** PDF. Some of the concepts in **Guitar Modes** will be easier to understand if you are already familiar with **Guitar Scales**, especially the major and natural minor scales.

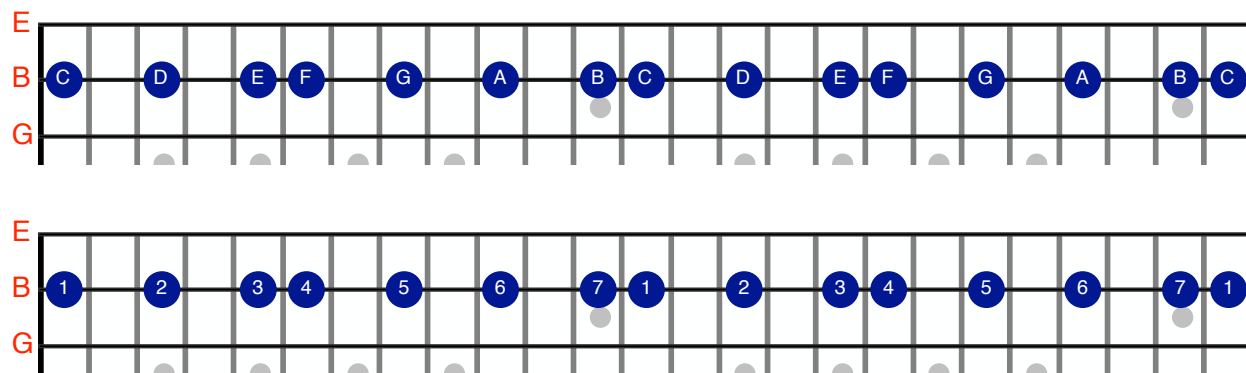
Guitar Modes covers the **seven modes** of the **major scale**:

1. Ionian
2. Dorian
3. Phrygian
4. Lydian
5. Mixolydian
6. Aeolian
7. Locrian

You can generate modes from other scales such as harmonic and melodic minor, but when most people talk about modes, they are talking about the seven major scale modes.

Each mode uses the notes of its parent major scale, but each one begins on a different note of the scale, which we refer to as scale degrees. The first note of a scale is the first scale degree, the second note is the second scale degree, and so forth.

2-Octave C Major Scale (Notes and Scale Degrees)



The examples on this page all use the **C major scale** as the parent scale, but these concepts apply to **all** major scales.

Ionian Mode (1st Scale Degree)

To play an Ionian scale, start from the 1st scale degree of the parent major scale. In other words, the Ionian mode is the **same as a major scale**.

C Ionian: C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C

Dorian Mode (2nd Scale Degree)

To play a Dorian scale, start from the 2nd scale degree of the parent major scale.

D Dorian: D-E-F-G-A-B-C-D

Phrygian Mode (3rd Scale Degree)

To play a Phrygian scale, start from the 3rd scale degree of the parent major scale. E Phrygian: E-F-G-A-B-C-D-E

Lydian Mode (4th Scale Degree)

To play a Lydian scale, start from the 4th scale degree of the parent major scale.

F Lydian: F-G-A-B-C-D-E-F

Mixolydian Mode (5th Scale Degree)

To play a Mixolydian scale, start from the 5th scale degree of the parent major scale. G Mixolydian: G-A-B-C-D-E-F-G

Aeolian Mode (6th Scale Degree)

The Aeolian mode is based on the 6th scale degree of the parent major scale and is the **same as the natural minor scale**. To play an Aeolian scale, start from the 6th scale degree of the C major scale.

A Aeolian: A-B-C-D-E-F-G-A

Locrian Mode (7th Scale Degree)

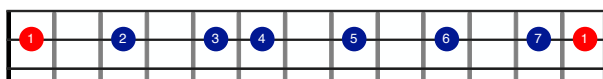
To play a Locrian scale, start from the 7th scale degree of the parent major scale. B Locrian: B-C-D-E-F-G-A-B

Major- and Minor-Type Modes

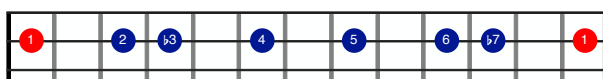
While it's important to know how modes are generated, it's more practical to think of each mode as its own type of scale. For that reason, I prefer to think of modes as different “flavors” of major and minor. The charts below show each mode compared to the major scale.

- The major scale degrees are labeled 1-7 with no modifications.
- Each mode has at least one altered scale degree.
- **“Major”** modes have an **unaltered 3rd scale degree**.
- **“Minor”** modes have a **lowered scale degree (b3, or “flat 3”)**.

Ionian (Major Scale)



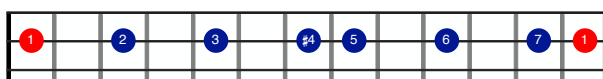
Dorian (Minor Mode)



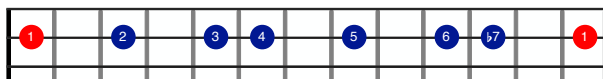
Phrygian (Minor Mode)



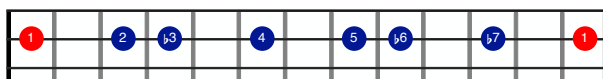
Lydian (Major Mode)



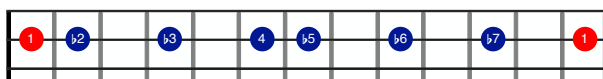
Mixolydian (Major Mode)



Aeolian (Natural Minor)

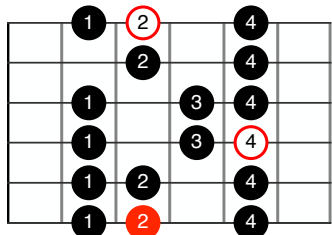


Locrian (Minor Mode)

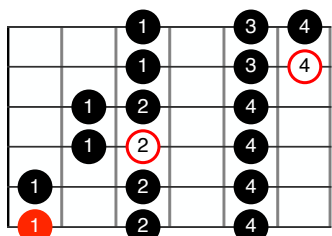


Ionian Mode Diagrams (Major Scale) Fingerings

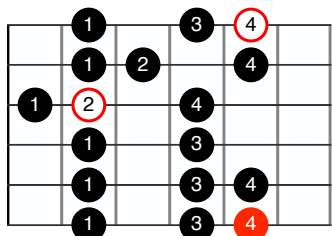
Ionian 1



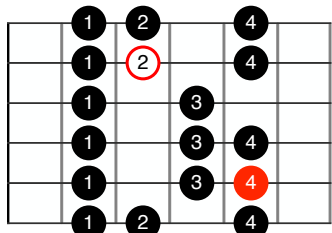
Ionian 2



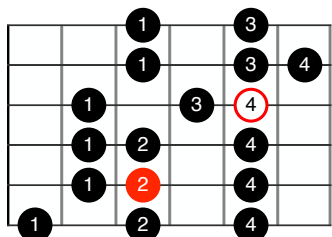
Ionian 3



Ionian 4

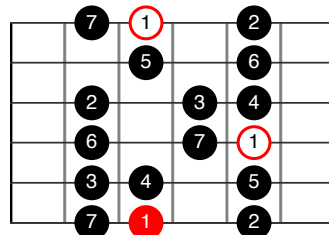


Ionian 5

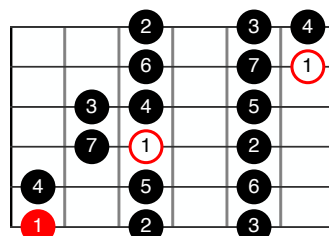


Scale Degrees

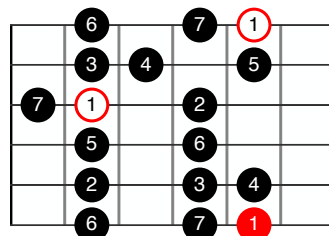
Ionian 1



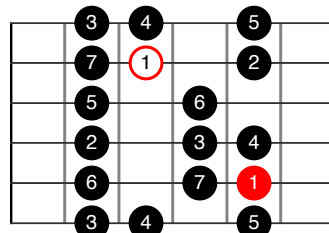
Ionian 2



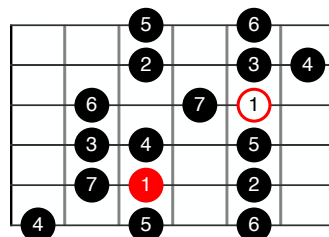
Ionian 3



Ionian 4

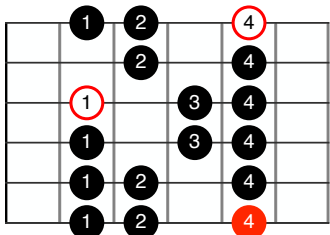


Ionian 5

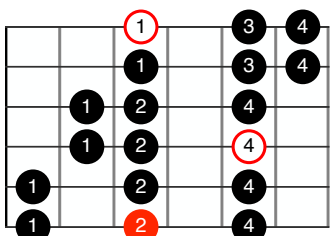


Dorian Mode Diagrams Fingerings

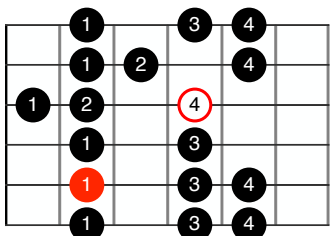
Dorian 1



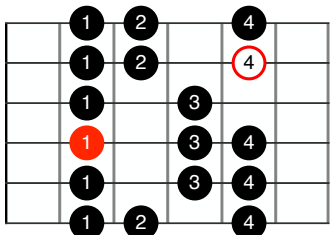
Dorian 2



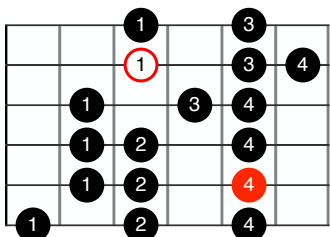
Dorian 3



Dorian 4

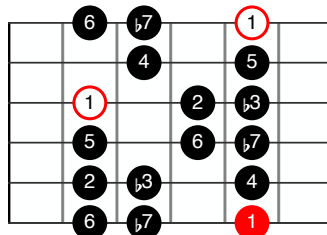


Dorian 5

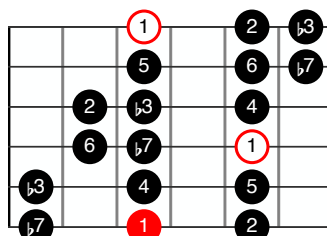


Scale Degrees

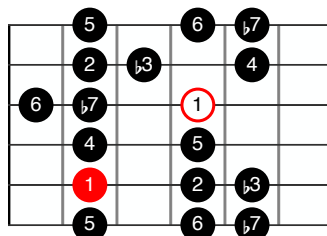
Dorian 1



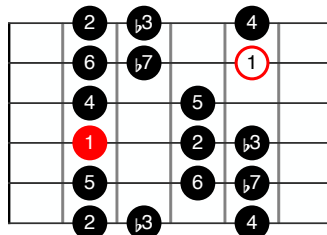
Dorian 2



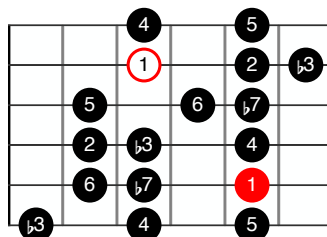
Dorian 3



Dorian 4

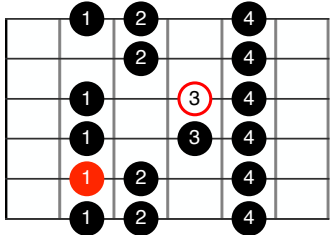


Dorian 5

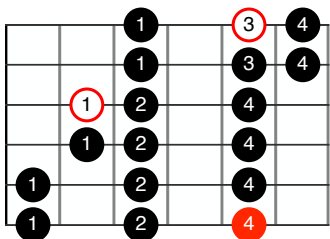


Phrygian Mode Diagrams Fingerings

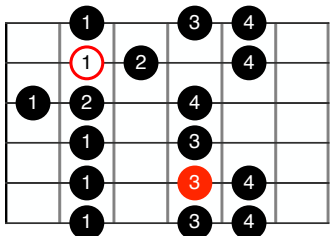
Phrygian 1



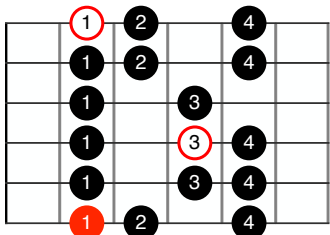
Phrygian 2



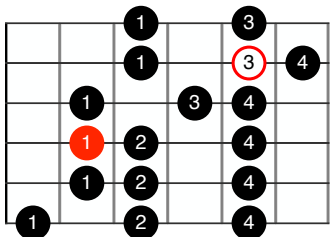
Phrygian 3



Phrygian 4

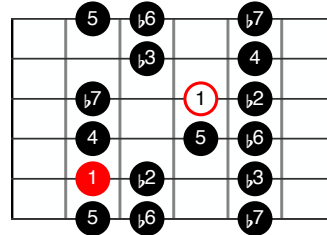


Phrygian 5

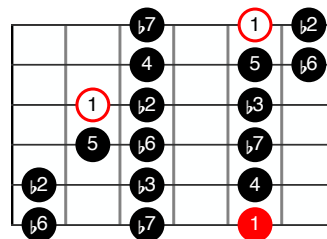


Scale Degrees

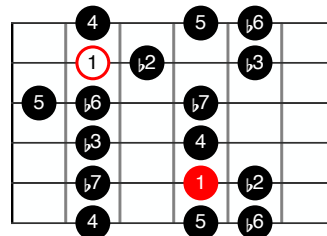
Phrygian 1



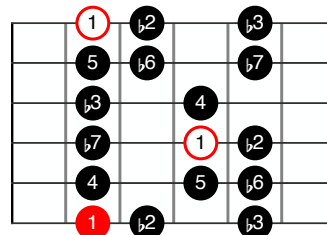
Phrygian 2



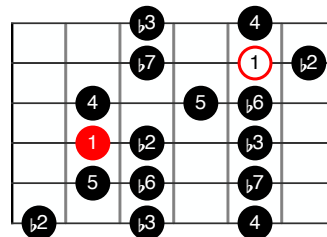
Phrygian 3



Phrygian 4

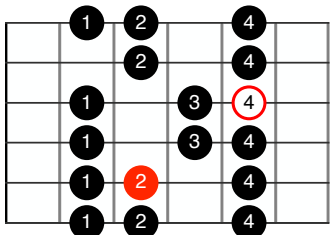


Phrygian 5

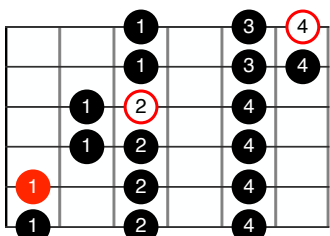


Lydian Mode Diagrams Fingerings

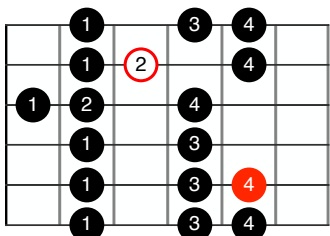
Lydian 1



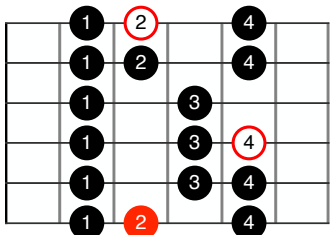
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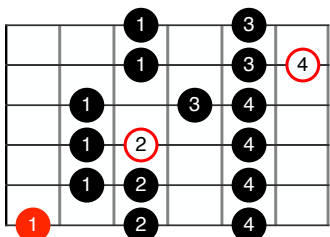
Lydian 3



Lydian 4

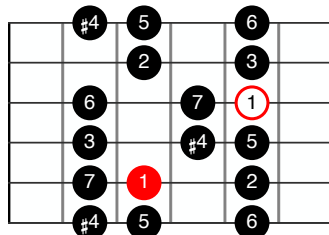


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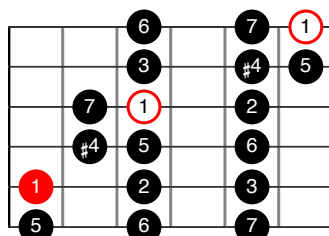


Scale Degrees

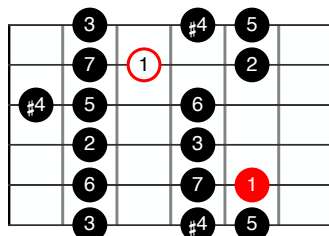
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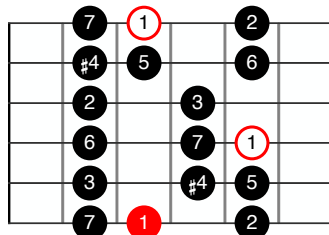
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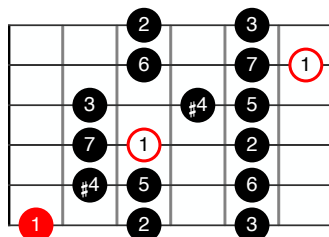
Lydian 3



Lydian 4

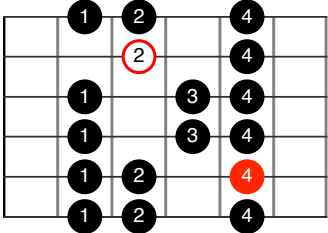


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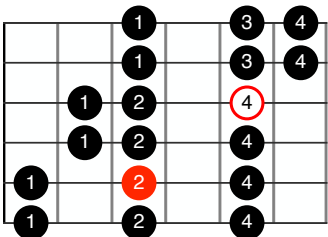


Mixolydian Mode Diagrams Fingerings

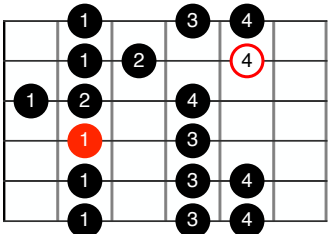
Mixolydian 1



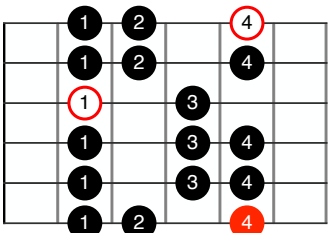
Mixolydian 2



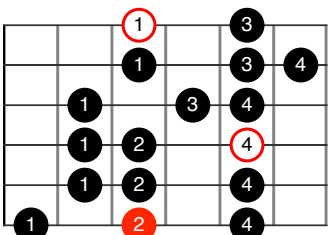
Mixolydian 3



Mixolydian 4

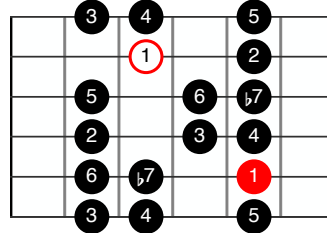


Mixolydian 5

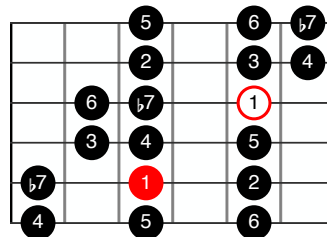


Scale Degrees

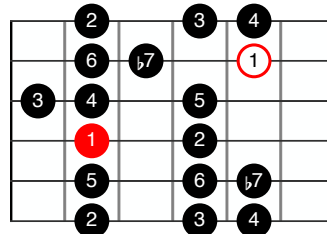
Mixolydian 1



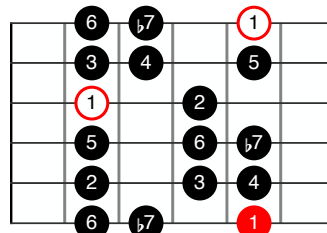
Mixolydian 2



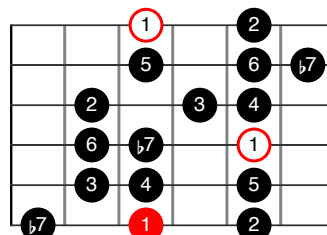
Mixolydian 3



Mixolydian 4



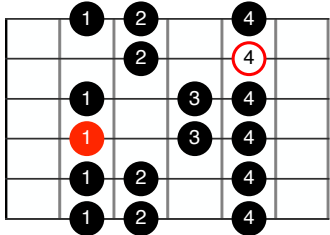
Mixolydian 5



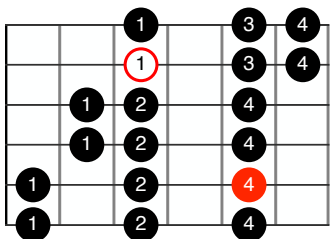
Aeolian Mode Diagrams (Natural Minor Scale)

Fingerings

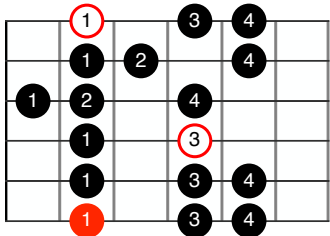
Aeolian 1



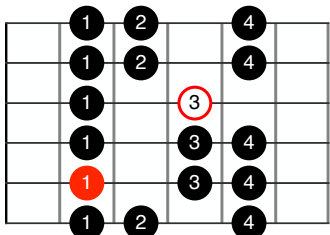
Aeolian 2



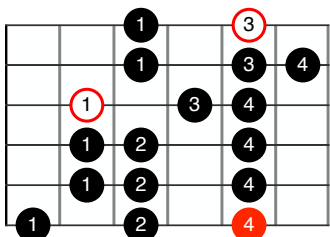
Aeolian 3



Aeolian 4

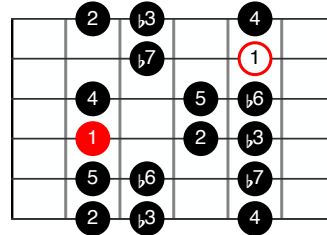


Aeolian 5

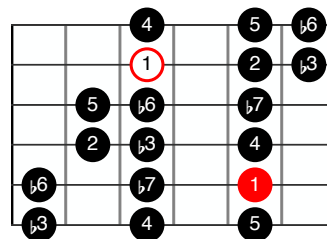


Scale Degrees

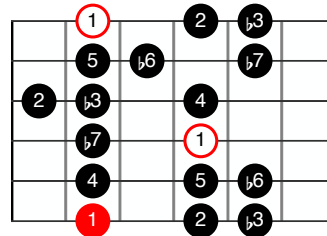
Aeolian 1



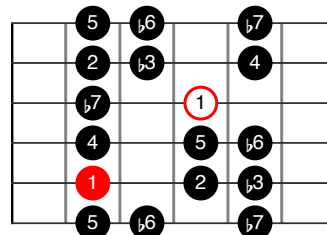
Aeolian 2



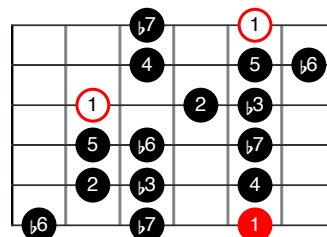
Aeolian 3



Aeolian 4

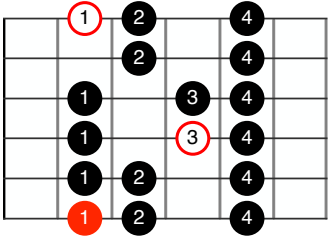


Aeolian 5

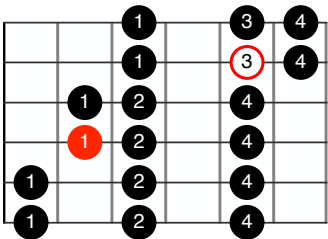


Locrian Mode Diagrams Fingerings

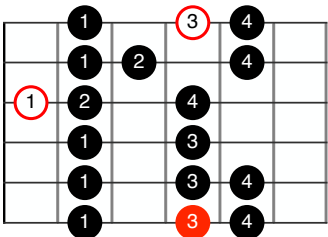
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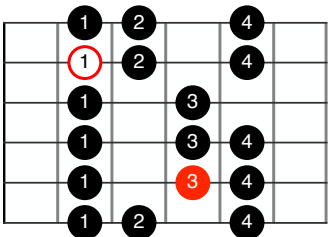
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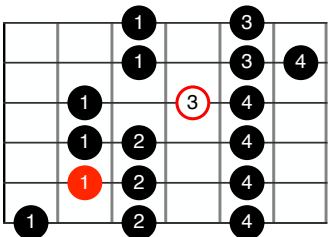
Locrian 3



Locrian 4

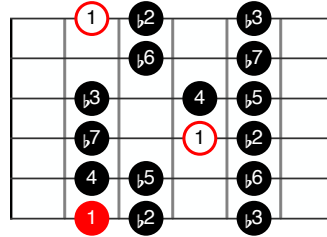


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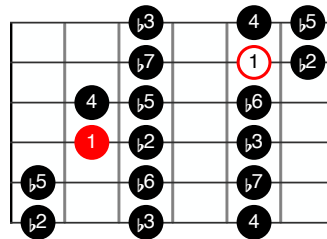


Scale Degrees

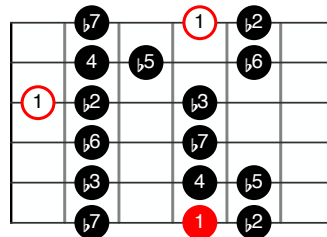
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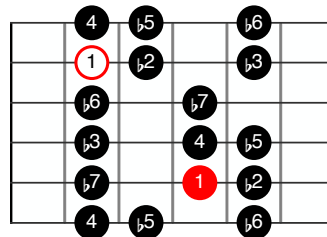
Locrian 2



Locrian 3



Locrian 4



Locrian 5

