

PIANO MODES WORKSHEET

MODE	NOTATION ON WHITE NOTES	NOTATION IN C
Ionian Major Scale	Ionian 	Ionian (major scale)
Dorian: Major Scale b3 b7	Dorian 	Dorian
Phrygian: Major Scale b2 b3 b6 b7	Phrygian 	Phrygian
Lydian: Major Scale #4	Lydian 	Lydian
Mixolydian: Major Scale b7	Mixolydian 	Mixolydian
Aeolian (Natural Minor) Major Scale b3 b6 b7	Aeolian 	Aeolian (natural min.)
Locrian Major Scale b2 b3 b5 b6 b7	Locrian 	Locrian

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MODE	SONGS THAT USE IT	CHANGES FROM MAJOR SCALE	CHANGES FROM NAT MIN SCALE	SOUND/MOOD	CHORD PROGRESSIONS TO IMPROVISE OVER
Ionian	This is just your regular major scale, so I'm sure you've got plenty of pieces which use this one!	No change, this is the major scale you know so well!		A normal major scale, bright and happy.	Any diatonic chord progression. Eg. Pop progressions: C Am F G or C G Am F , etc.
Dorian	Mad World , Billie Jean by Michael Jackson, Scarborough Fair, Drunken Sailor!		Raised 6th.	Can create a sense of 'lift' in the music. Nautical themes.	For D Dorian: Dm and G . Transpose to other keys.
Phrygian	Elements of Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2		Flattened 2nd.	"Spanish" sound. Dark or exotic. Sometimes a little angular or angry.	In E: Try 5ths in LH on E, F, C, G etc. Explore variations with driving rhythms, eg. 123,123,12 etc.
Lydian	The Simpsons theme song (Actually Lydian Dominant, but oh well!)	Raised 4th.		Uplifting, quirky sound.	Major 7 chords. Eg. In F: FΔ7 C
Mixolydian	Hey Jude (chorus) by The Beatles. Star Trek TV Theme.	Flattened 7th		Pop sounds. Bright but a little edgy.	In G: Try G F Em F
Aeolian	All Along the Watchtower by Bob Dylan		No change - this is the Natural Minor Scale. Teach this first!	Minor sounding, dark and sad.	In A: Any white-note diatonic chords. Descending bass movement works well. Eg. in A: Am C/G FΔ7 Em
Locrian	It features in passages of Rachmaninov's B Minor Prelude Op. 32 No. 10 . More likely found in jazz.		Flattened 2nd and 5th.	Sounds discordant and unresolved.	Diminished chords and/or m7b5 chords. Eg. In B: Bm7b5 (Bdim7). Could alternate with Am7?