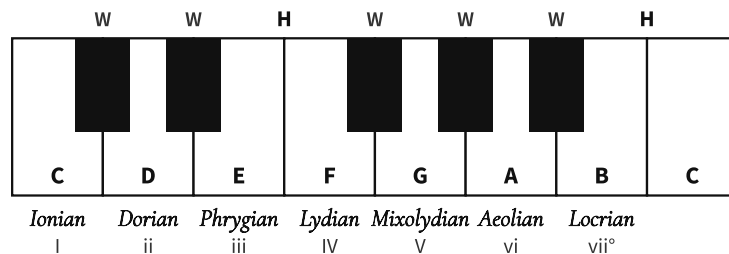


# Musical modes chart

Ionian to Locrian · musictheoryprint.com



| MODE                        | STARTS ON DEGREE            | STEPS         | FORMULA                 | CHORD     | ON C                                              | WHAT SETS IT APART                                  | RANK     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ionian</i><br>from C     | <b>I</b><br>tonic           | W W H W W W H | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7           | <b>C</b>  | C D E F G A B<br>no sharps or flats               | The modern major scale.                             | <b>2</b> |
| <i>Dorian</i><br>from D     | <b>ii</b><br>supertonic     | W H W W W H W | 1 2 ♭ 3 4 5 6 ♭ 7       | <b>Dm</b> | C D E ♭ F G A B ♭<br>B ♭ E ♭                      | Natural minor with a major sixth.                   | <b>4</b> |
| <i>Phrygian</i><br>from E   | <b>iii</b><br>mediant       | H W W W H W W | 1 ♭ 2 ♭ 3 4 5 ♭ 6 ♭ 7   | <b>Em</b> | C D ♭ E ♭ F G A ♭<br>B ♭<br>B ♭ E ♭ A ♭ D ♭       | Natural minor with a minor second.                  | <b>6</b> |
| <i>Lydian</i><br>from F     | <b>IV</b><br>subdominant    | W W W H W W H | 1 2 3 # 4 5 6 7         | <b>F</b>  | C D E F # G A B<br>F #                            | Major scale with an augmented fourth.               | <b>1</b> |
| <i>Mixolydian</i><br>from G | <b>V</b><br>dominant        | W W H W W H W | 1 2 3 4 5 6 ♭ 7         | <b>G</b>  | C D E F G A B ♭<br>B ♭                            | Major scale with a minor seventh (a subtonic).      | <b>3</b> |
| <i>Aeolian</i><br>from A    | <b>vi</b><br>submediant     | W H W W H W W | 1 2 ♭ 3 4 5 ♭ 6 ♭ 7     | <b>Am</b> | C D E ♭ F G A ♭<br>B ♭<br>B ♭ E ♭ A ♭             | The natural minor scale.                            | <b>5</b> |
| <i>Locrian</i><br>from B    | <b>vii°</b><br>leading tone | H W W H W W W | 1 ♭ 2 ♭ 3 4 ♭ 5 ♭ 6 ♭ 7 | <b>B°</b> | C D ♭ E ♭ F G ♭<br>A ♭ B ♭<br>B ♭ E ♭ A ♭ D ♭ G ♭ | Diminished fifth, so the tonic triad is diminished. | <b>7</b> |

From bright to dark: one more lowered note at each step

|                                             |                                              |                                                  |                                              |                                               |                                                |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Lydian</i><br>□ □ □ □ □ □ □<br>reference | <i>Ionian</i><br>□ □ □ □ □ □ □<br>lowers ♭ 4 | <i>Mixolydian</i><br>□ □ □ □ □ □ □<br>lowers ♭ 7 | <i>Dorian</i><br>□ □ □ □ □ □ □<br>lowers ♭ 3 | <i>Aeolian</i><br>□ □ □ □ □ □ □<br>lowers ♭ 6 | <i>Phrygian</i><br>□ □ □ □ □ □ □<br>lowers ♭ 2 | <i>Locrian</i><br>□ □ □ □ □ □ □<br>lowers ♭ 5 |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|

Formula: the degrees of the mode compared with the major scale ( ♭ = a semitone lower, # = a semitone higher). Steps: W = whole step, H = half step. Rank: 1 = brightest. Bars: how many notes are lowered compared with Lydian. “Bright” and “dark” are the usual teaching words for this order, not a measurement.

Step patterns, interval qualities, tonic chords and the bright-to-dark order: [Wikipedia, Mode \(music\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mode_(music)); degree names: [Wikipedia, Degree \(music\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Degree_(music)). CC BY-SA 4.0, shared under the same licence. [musictheoryprint.com/charts/modes-chart](https://musictheoryprint.com/charts/modes-chart)