

Modes of the G Major/ E Minor Scale

Mode & Chords	Fret	3	5	7	9	12	15	17	19	21	24	
G Ionian			•	•	•							1st Degree of G Major
Chords		◊	•	•	•	◊		◊	◊	◊	◊	
G Maj 7		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
G(add9)		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
A Dorian			•	•	•	•						2nd Degree of G Major
Chords		◊	•	•	•	•		◊	◊	◊	◊	
G Maj 7		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
A min7		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
B Phrygian				•	•	•						3rd Degree of G Major
Chords		◊	◊	•	•	•		◊	◊	◊	◊	
G Maj 7		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
G#Maj7b5/ E		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
C Lydian					•	•						4th Degree of G Major
Chords		◊	◊	◊	•	•		◊	◊	◊	◊	
G Maj 7		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
D/C		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
D Mixolydian						•						5th Degree of G Major
Chords		◊	◊	◊	◊	•		◊	◊	◊	◊	
G Maj 7		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
D7, C/D		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
E Aeolian (Pure Minor)								•				6th Degree of G Major
Chords		◊	◊	◊	◊	◊		•	◊	◊	◊	
G Maj 7		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
Emin7#5		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
F# Locrian (Diminished)									•			7th Degree of G Major
Chords		◊	◊	◊	◊	◊		◊	◊	◊	◊	
G Maj 7		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
Emin7b5		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	

To demystify "modes", think about them 2 ways:

1) There are 7 notes in any major scale, so when played in sequence, the notes create a mode or "degree" of the major scale.

A "mode" is simply playing the same original 7 notes, only starting on a different point in the scale each time.

Eq: We know G Major is made up of the notes: G A B C D E F#

When you play G Major **starting on G**, you play the notes G A B C D E F#. This is the first "mode" or "degree" of G Major, also known as the **G Ionian Mode**.

When you play G Major, but starting on the **2nd note A**, you play the notes A B C D E F# G. This is the second "mode" or "degree" of G Major, also known as the **A Dorian Mode**.

When you play G Major, but starting on the **3rd note B**, you play the notes B C D E F# G A. This is the 3rd "mode" or "degree" of G Major, also known as the **B Phrygian Mode**.

When you play G Major, but starting on the **4th note C**, you play the notes C D E F# G A B. This is the 4th "mode" or "degree" of G Major, also known as the **C Lydian Mode**.

When you play G Major, but starting on the **5th note D**, you play the notes D E F# G A B C. This is the 5th "mode" or "degree" of G Major, also known as the **D Mixolydian Mode**.

When you play G Major, but starting on the **6th note E**, you play the notes E F# G A B C D. This is the 6th "mode" or "degree" of G Major, also known as the **E Aeolian Mode**. (also Natural Minor)

When you play G Major, but starting on the **7th note F#**, you play the notes F# G A B C D E. This is the 7th "mode" or "degree" of G Major, also known as the **F# Locrian Mode**.

Each pattern is a repeat of the same notes with Position 1 starting on G (Ionian), Position 2 starting on A (Dorian), Position 3 starting on B (Phrygian), Position 4 starting on C (Lydian), Position 5 starting on D (Mixolydian), Position 6 starting on E (Aeolian) and Position 7 starting on F# (Locrian).

You end up with the same 7 notes all over the fretboard, but forming 7 different shapes or positions. Any of these 7 positions can be played over just one chord. For example, use all 7 modes to practice soloing over a simple **G Maj7** chord, then try over any chord within the G Major scale. I.e: G maj- Am- Bm- C maj- D7 - Em - F#mb5 (dim) Each new chord will draw out the flavour of the mode to reveal its "character", even though you're playing the same 7 notes - which brings us to point 2:

2) Each individual mode also has its own "flavour" and character that can be explored and used as the basis for artistic creation!

To hear the differences, record a simple backing of **G Maj7** and listen to the sound of the 7 modes played against it.

You now have scales across the entire neck to play over just chord!

But, it is the **chord that determines the character of the mode! Every scale will sound like a G Ionian**.

It's only when you play the same 7 scales over the next chord, an Amin7 backing and you listen to the vibe, will the "Dorian" jazzy, soulful character be revealed.

Do the same by playing the same 7 modes of **G maj** over Bmin7 to reveal the "Phrygian" exotic, dark, Spanish vibe

Play the 7 modes over a D/C (D maj triad over a C bass note) to reveal Vai, Satriani and my favorite "Lydian" mode. Always reminds me of deep space!!

The list below outlines the modes of Gmaj, their individual formulae and flavour.

Check out the mountains of information on modes available on the net. Have fun, create, experiment. Dejan

Degree	Start	Best Chord	Mode	Character							
1	G	G(add9)	Ionian	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Happy, Merry, Upbeat, Cheerful
2	A	A min7	Dorian	1	2	b3	4	5	6	b7	Jazzy, Soulful, Sophisticated
3	B	G#Maj7b5/ E	Phrygian	1	b2	b3	4	5	b6	b7	Spanish, Exotic, Dark
4	C	D/C	Lydian	1	2	3	#4	5	6	b7	Ethereal, Airy, Hollow, Light
5	D	D7, C/D	Mixolydian	1	2	3	4	5	6	b7	Jazzy, Fusion, Bluesy, Mellow
6	E	Emin7#5	Aeolian	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	b7	Sad, Direct, Sorrow
7	F#	Emin7b5	Locrian	1	b2	b3	4	b5	b6	b7	Sinister, Anxious, Haunting