

# Modes Notes

## Unit One - Primer:

First thing you need to know is that MODES are SCALES. We use them in the same way we use any scale...to create melodies!

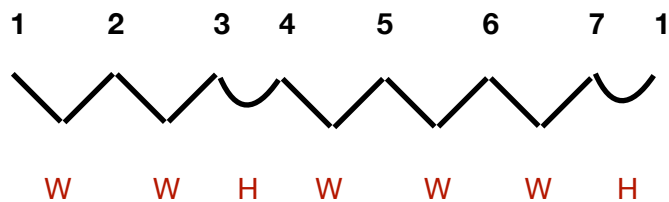
A “Mode” refers to scale that is found within an existing scale. Sounds confusing, but it isn’t!

If you play a Major Scale from the Tonic (1st note of the scale) to its octave, you have your Major Scale. Of course.

But if you play a Major Scale and start and end on another note from that scale, you’ve actually played a totally different sounding scale. These scales are commonly referred to as Modes. Make no mistake, though... you’ve just played another kind of scale! MODES are SCALES!

It all starts with the Major Scale with the formula **Whole, Whole, Half, Whole, Whole, Whole, Half** (referring to the steps between the notes)

Formula:



**IONIAN** - Play the Major Scale from the first note to its octave (1 to 1).

**DORIAN** - Play the Major Scale from the 2nd note to its octave (2 to 2).

**PHRYGIAN** - Play the Major Scale from 3 to 3.

**LYDIAN** - Play the Major Scale from 4 to 4.

**MIXOLYDIAN** - Play the Major Scale from 5 to 5.

**AEOLIAN** - Play the Major Scale from 6 to 6.

**LOCRIAN** - Play the Major Scale from 7 to 7.

## NOTE:

- \* Each Mode (Scale) has its own unique sound, even though it technically comes from the Major Scale.
- \* Each Scale has its own Whole/Half step formula, which you’ll learn in later units.
- \* You will eventually know these scales without (necessarily) referring to their “parent” Major Scale.
- \* To remember the order of the scales, remember the phrase:

**I Don’t Play Like Mel Any Longer**