

## The Major/Ionian Mode (First Mode)

The Ionian mode is another name for the “major scale” - a very familiar sound that we all recognise. This a very bright and upbeat sounding key and has a light and uplifting sound – used in lots of pop, easy listening, rock songs and many jingles and nursery rhymes.

It is often used for gentle ballads such as Clapton’s Tears in Heaven also Slash uses the Major Scale a lot...being a good example of rock

The notes of C Ionian (C D E F G A B) and the C major pentatonic scale (C D E G A)

The notes of the Major Pentatonic scale exist inside the Ionian Mode as above example and it can be helpful to see this clearly so firstly learn to play the 5 Major pentatonic shapes. The ‘C’ root notes are BLACK and other scale degrees are WHITE. Fret numbers are indicated to the bottom of each diagram. Next, ‘pin’ the Ionian scale patterns onto the pentatonic ones and practice them one by one.

### 5 Positions of the C Ionian Positions

The diagrams illustrate five positions of the C Ionian mode on the guitar fretboard. Each diagram shows a 6-string fretboard with notes marked as white circles (natural) or black circles (sharps). The strings are labeled E, B, G, D, A, E from top to bottom. The fret numbers for the root notes are 8, 10, 15, 3, and 8 respectively.

Position 1 (Root at fret 8): Notes are C (8, E), D (8, B), E (8, G), F (9, D), G (8, A), A (8, E), B (9, B).

Position 2 (Root at fret 10): Notes are C (10, E), D (10, B), E (10, G), F (11, D), G (10, A), A (10, E), B (11, B).

Position 3 (Root at fret 15): Notes are C (15, E), D (15, B), E (15, G), F (16, D), G (15, A), A (15, E), B (16, B).

Position 4 (Root at fret 3): Notes are C (3, E), D (3, B), E (3, G), F (4, D), G (3, A), A (3, E), B (4, B).

Position 5 (Root at fret 8): Notes are C (8, E), D (8, B), E (8, G), F (9, D), G (8, A), A (8, E), B (9, B).

C Ionian Mode