

The Mixolydian Mode (5th Mode)

The Mixolydian mode originates from the 5th degree of the major scale e.g.: G to G in The C major. Its scale degrees are R 1 2 3 4 5 6 b7 making it a major scale with the character note of a flattened 7th.

This mode contains the chord tones (notes) of a dominant 7th chord: Root, 3rd, 5th, b7 which means you can play it over a dominant 7th chord and it can be commonly used in a major blues context.

It is also a very popular mode in rock because songs often have the chord progression going from the root to the flat seventh to the fourth. In the key of A, that would be A (chord I), G (flat7) and D (chord 4), Take me to the River is an example. In the key of D it would be D, C, G, e.g.: the verse of Sweet Child of Mine, Guns n Roses. ‘Sweet Home Alabama’ is another of a Mixolydian sound...

The notes of the Major Pentatonic scale exist inside the Mixolydian Mode and it can be helpful to see this clearly so firstly learn to play the 5 Major Pentatonic shapes first in my earlier lesson document.

Below are the 5 positions of the Mixolydian scale in the key of C..... ‘C’ root notes are in BLACK and the other scale degrees are in White. Fret numbers are indicated to the bottom of each diagram.

5 positions of C Mixolydian:



