

The Modes Of The Major Scale - Lydian

The Lydian Mode is a seven-note scale often used in jazz and rock. **Lydian is a major mode and is always the 4th mode in any major key.**

Lydian is very similar to a major scale, (Ionian Mode), except it has a #4. This one alteration gives the mode a very pretty, emotive mood, almost mesmerizing. The Lydian mode scale degrees are 1, 2, 3, #4, 5, 6, and 7.

Lydian is not as commonly utilized as Ionian, but it brings a hip tension with that sharp fourth interval. Simply raise the 4th degree of any major scale a half step, and you have Lydian.

Play this mode over maj7, maj9, maj6, and maj6/9 chords when treating each chord as a “*separate event*”. Also try it over Lydian modal chord progressions, power chords and major triads. Lydian also sounds great over rock ballads.

Lydian always is the 4th mode. To play in E Lydian ask yourself what major scale’s fourth note is an E? The answer is B. The fourth note of a B major scale is an E note.

Start on the fourth note in a B major scale and play from the E note to the next E note and you have E Lydian. As you can see below, B major and E Lydian are both constructed from the same notes.

E Lydian = E, F#, G#, A#, B, C#, D#

B Major = B, C#, D#, E, F#, G#, A#

Remember, it’s all about MOOD and EMPHASIS when playing in the modes. Which note you start on and emphasize produces the different moods and sound textures of each mode.

Below are two common shapes for Lydian. One has the low root note on the low E-string and the other has the low root on the A-string. As you can see they are almost identical to a major scale except your play a #4.

Find these patterns fast by using your first finger on the low root. Learn all the shapes to play Lydian across the whole neck as per the major scale lessons in the written lessons section of this series.

KEY POINTS:

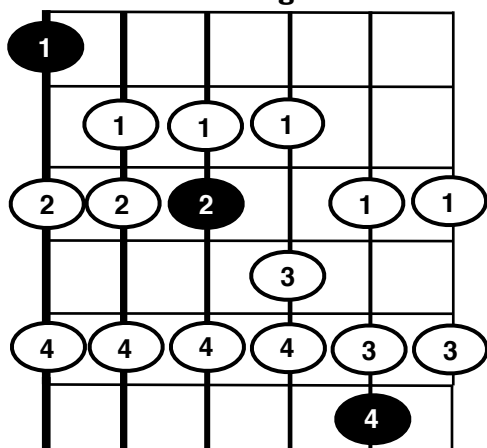
Lydian is always the 4th mode of any major key.

Starting on and emphasizing the 4th note of any major scale produces the Lydian Mode.

Lydian is often the mode of choice over major 7th and major 9th chords.

Remember, it’s all about MOOD and EMPHASIS when playing in the modes

**Low E-string root
first finger**



**A-string root
(first finger)**

