

The Modes Of The Major Scale - Mixolydian

The Mixolydian Mode is a seven-note scale often used in blues and rock. **Mixolydian is considered a major mode and is always the 5th mode in any major key.** Often its the mode of choice played over dominant chords, like dominant 7ths and 9ths.

Mixolydian is basically a major scale, (Ionian Mode), but with a b7. The scale degrees are 1,2,3,4,5,6,b7. Try this mode over dominant chords like 7th and 9th chords when treating each chord as a “*separate event*”.

Mixolydian is the 5th mode and the key is to shift the tonal center to the root of the mode. For example, to play G Mixolydian over a G7 chord ask yourself what major scale’s fifth note is a G? The answer is C.

The fifth note of a C major scale is a G note. Play C major scales over a G7 chord but emphasize the G notes for G Mixolydian. C major and G Mixolydian consist of the same notes:

C Major scale - C, D, E, F, G, A, B

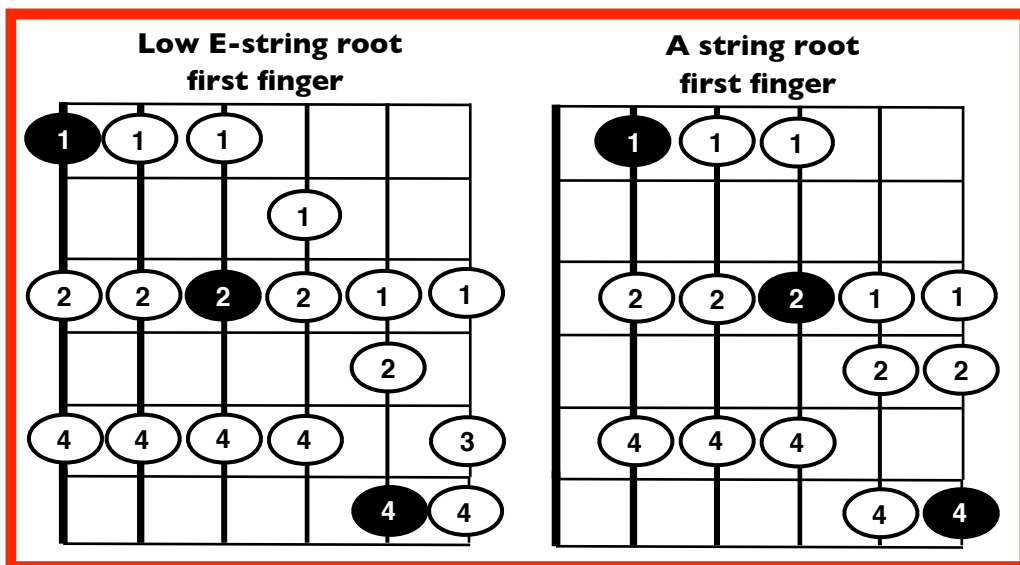
G Mixolydian - G, A, B, C, D, E, F

This is an incredibly useful mode, especially for blues and jazz playing. To play E Mixolydian over an E7 chord ask yourself what major scale’s fifth note is a E? The answer is A.

The fifth note of a A major scale is an E note. Play A major scales over an E7 chord but emphasize the E notes. A major and E Mixolydian consist of the same notes.

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 Mixolydian. One has the low root note on the low E-string and the other has the low root on the A-string. Find these patterns fast by using your first finger on the low root and try them in various keys over the appropriate jam tracks - and have fun!



KEY POINTS:

Mixolydian is always the 5th mode of any major key.

Starting on and emphasizing the 5th note of any major scale produces the Mixolydian Mode.

Mixolydian is often the mode of choice over dominant 7th chords.