

# The Modes Of The Major Scale - Dorian

The Dorian Mode is a seven-note scale often used in blues, rock, and many other musical genres. **Dorian is considered a minor mode and is always the 2nd mode in any major key.**

Dorian produces a mystical, minor sound that is a bit sweeter than Aeolian. The Dorian scale degrees are 1, 2, b3, 4, 5, 6, and b7. There is only one note difference between Dorian and Aeolian - the 6th.

I find myself using Dorian all the time as it sounds awesome in rock, hard rock, blues, and even in some jazzy scenarios.

Utilize Dorian over all the chords in a minor key jam when there is a major IV chord or a minor ii chord. You can also use Dorian over minor type chords when treating each chord as a "separate event".

Remember Dorian is the 2nd mode in any major key. To play A Dorian the question is what major scale's 2nd note is an A note? The answer is G major. A Dorian would be converted back to its parent scale of G major.

To play in A Dorian start on the 2nd note in a G major scale and play from the A note till the next A note and you have A Dorian. You are playing a G major scale from the A to the A and voila', you have A Dorian.

Playing G major scales starting on the 2nd note and emphasizing the A notes, not the G notes, produces A Dorian. This establishes the tonal center as A. G major and A Dorian are constructed from the same notes.

**G Major scale – G, A, B, C, D, E, F#**

**A Dorian scale - A, B, C, D, E, F#, G**

Below are two common shapes for Dorian. One has the low root note on the low E-string and the other has the low root note on the A-string. Find these patterns fast using your first finger on the low root.

Start with these scales below, then learn all the shapes to play Dorian across the neck. For more info refer to the major scale written lessons in this series.

**Low E-string root  
(first finger)**

root note

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

fingering

**KEY POINTS:**

**Dorian is always the 2nd mode of any major key.**

**Starting on and emphasizing the 2nd note of any major scale produces the Dorian Mode.**

**Dorian has one note difference than Aeolian. Dorian has a natural 6th while Aeolian has a b6. Dorian has a bit more sweeter, mystical sound than Aeolian.**