

The Modes Of The Major Scale - Phrygian

The Phrygian Mode produces a very distinctive dark, exotic, Spanish type of sound. Often its called the Spanish Minor Scale. **Phrygian is a minor mode and is always the 3rd mode in any major key.**

Often you will hear the Phrygian mode played in hard rock, metal, fusion, and flamenco guitar. You don't hear this mode utilized as often as Aeolian or Dorian, but it is super fun to experiment with and get some killer exotic tones.

You can try this mode over minor chords, but it can sound a tad exotic, some may say dissonant. Often its the mode of choice when you see a b2 chord, or play it over a m7 chord, minor triad, or power chords.

Phrygian has only one note different than the Aeolian. Phrygian has a flatted 2nd, (b2), while Aeolian has a natural 2nd. The scale degrees of Phrygian are 1, b2, b3, 4, 5, b6, b7.

Phrygian is always the 3rd mode in any major key. To play in E Phrygian ask yourself what major scale's third note is a E? The answer is C. The third note of a C major scale is E. Play C major scales but emphasize the E notes. C major and E Phrygian consist of the same notes.

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

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 Phrygian. 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.

Don't think of "shapes" or "positions" as modes. Get in the habit of looking at the entire fretboard as the vehicle for the mode, not just a certain position.

Learn the mode and its interval structure across the entire fretboard. Start with the scales below, but learn all the positions as per the major scales lessons in the written lesson section of this series. Try to get creative with this mode and let your ear guide you to what sounds best - enjoy!

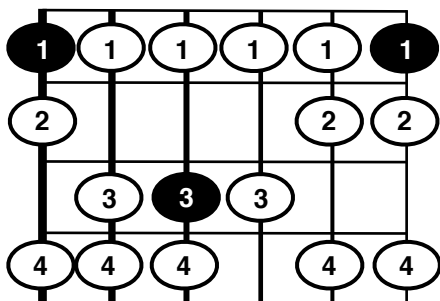
KEY POINTS:

Phrygian is always the 3rd mode of any major key.

Starting on and emphasizing the 3rd note of any major scale produces the Phrygian Mode.

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

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



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

