

Modal Chord Substitution Cheat Sheet!

If the melody is in D-Ionian, these chords can be borrowed from other modes:

Mode to Borrow From	Chord Options
D-Dorian	Dm, F, Am, B [°] , C
D-Phrygian	Dm, Eb, F, Gm, A [°] , Bb, Cm
D-Lydian	E, G# [°]
D-Mixolydian	F# [°] , Am, C

If the melody is in G-Ionian, these chords can be borrowed from other modes:

Mode to Borrow From	Chord Options
G- Dorian	Gm, Bb, Dm, E [°] , F
G-Phrygian	Gm, Ab, Bb, Cm, D [°] , Eb, Am
G-Lydian	A, C# [°]
G-Mixolydian	B [°] , Dm, F

You know the process for determining which chords may be borrowed from one mode to another. Work through the other substitutions on your own and expand your options for making melodies more dramatic or engaging. It's good to have a list of borrowed chord options for A-Ionian and E-Ionian. If you work in minor-sounding modes, make charts for Dorian, Phrygian and Aeolian modes in the keys you use most. If you want an uplifting sound, make charts for the Lydian mode.

Once you create these charts of borrowing options and create your own cheat sheet, the heavy lifting is over. As you make use of the options, choices will become more deliberate and even "obvious". The choices you routinely make will help to establish "your sound".