

Mixolydian Mode

The Scale & Vibe

The Mixolydian scale begins on the 5th degree of the scale, So. This mode sounds happy and bright. Many people describe this mode as “carefree”. Mixolydian mode is found in nearly all traditional, commercial and art-music styles. Mixolydian is a must-know mode.

So La Ti Do Re Me Fa

D-Mixolydian Scale: D E F# G A B C

A-Mixolydian Scale: A B C# D E F# G

E-Mixolydian Scale: E F# G# B C# D

The Key Signature

The root tone of a Mixolydian scale is always the 5th degree of the Ionian scale that sets the key signature.

D-Mixolydian: The tone D is the 5th degree of the G-Ionian scale. So, the key signature of this mode has one sharp (F#)

A-Mixolydian: The tone A is the 5th degree of the D-Ionian scale. So, the key signature of this mode has two sharps (F# and C#)

E-Mixolydian: The tone E is the 5th degree of the A-Ionian scale. So, the key signature of this mode has three sharps (F# C# G#)

Altered Tones

To create an Mixolydian scale from the Ionian scale using the same root tone lower the 7th tone by a half-step.

Mixolydian	1	2	3	4	5	6	b7
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Chords

The prominent chords in mixolydian are the chord that names the mode and the chord built on the 7th tone of the scale.

G Mixolydian – key signature of C – no accidentals

Scale: G A B C D E F

Prominent chords will contain the tones of G and F

G (G B D) F (F A C)
C (C E G) Dm (D F A)
Em (E G B)

The “give away” chord is F. The feeling of the transition between the G and F chord is powerful and absolutely identifies the mixolydian mode.

Jam track

G Am C F G

G Dm C F G

G C G F G C F G

Examples of Mixolydian Mode

Norwegian Wood – The Beatles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiJiuhnDfck>

Old Joe Clark

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jk13L83kgaE>

A hodge-podge of SHORT clips of songs and themes composed in Mixolydian mode. Lots of different styles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgC43uP4XBQ>