

Lesson Four

The Seven Modes of the Harmonic Minor Scale

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Reference and comparison of modal scales

Modes and scales

Modes can be seen as alternate versions of scales. The most common modes are based on the Major scales and the Natural Minor scales*, but here we will focus on the modes of the Harmonic Minor Scale.

* See lesson three in this lesson series.

First mode of Minor Harmonic

This mode is identical with the Minor Harmonic Scale:

Degrees	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	7
A Minor Harmonic	A	B	C	D	E	F	G#

There is no alternate name (as Ionian for the first Major mode).

Second mode of Minor Harmonic - Locrian #6 or Locrian #13

The second mode of the Minor Harmonic Scale is also referred to as Locrian #6 or Locrian #13 (the 6th and 13th degrees are the same but on different octaves):

Degrees	1	b2	b3	4	5	6	b7
B Locrian #6	B	C	D	E	F	G#	A
Degrees	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	7
A Minor Harmonic	A	B	C	D	E	F	G#

The B Locrian #6 contains the same notes as the A Harmonic Minor Scale, but starts on another note. The formula is 1 - b2 - b3 - 4 - b5 - 6 - b7, which is characterized of the half-diminished chord type.

Locrian #6 is identical to the [Locrian Mode](#) except for the major sixth interval.

Third mode of Minor Harmonic - Ionian #5

The third mode of the Minor Harmonic Scale is also referred to as Ionian #5:

Degrees	1	2	3	4	#5	6	7
C Ionian #5	C	D	E	F	G#	A	B
Degrees	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	7
A Minor Harmonic	A	B	C	D	E	F	G#

The C Ionian #5 contains the same notes as the A Harmonic Minor Scale, but starts on another note. The formula is 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - #5 - 6 - 7, which is characterized of the maj7#5 chord.

Ionian #5 is identical to the [Ionian Mode](#) except for the augmented fifth.

Fourth mode of Minor Harmonic - Dorian #4 or Dorian #11

The fourth mode of the Minor Harmonic Scale is also referred to as Dorian #4 or Dorian #11 (the 4th and 11th degrees are the same but on different octaves):

Degrees	1	2	b3	#4	5	6	b7
D Dorian #4	D	E	F	G#	A	B	C
Degrees	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	7
A Minor Harmonic	A	B	C	D	E	F	G#

The D Dorian #4 contains the same notes as the A Harmonic Minor Scale, but starts on another note. The formula is 1 - 2 - b3 - #4 - 5 - 6 - b7, which is characterized of the m7 chord and the augmented fourth interval.

Dorian #4 is identical to the [Dorian Mode](#) except for the augmented fourth.

Fifth mode of Minor Harmonic - Phrygian Dominant

The fifth mode of the Minor Harmonic Scale is also referred to as Phrygian Dominant:

Degrees	1	b2	3	4	5	b6	b7
E Phrygian Dominant	E	F	G#	A	B	C	D
Degrees	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	7
A Minor Harmonic	A	B	C	D	E	F	G#

The E Phrygian Dominant contains the same notes as the A Harmonic Minor Scale, but starts on another note. The formula is 1 - b2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - b6 - b7, which is characterized of the 7th dominant chord.

Phrygian Dominant is identical to the [Phrygian Mode](#) except for the major third.

Sixth mode of Minor Harmonic - Lydian #2

The fifth mode of the Minor Harmonic Scale is also referred to as Lydian #2:

Degrees	1	#2	3	#4	5	6	7
F Lydian #2	F	G#	A	B	C	D	E
Degrees	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	7
A Minor Harmonic	A	B	C	D	E	F	G#

The F Lydian #2 contains the same notes as the A Harmonic Minor Scale, but starts on another note. The formula is 1 - #2 - 3 - #4 - 5 - 6 - 7, which is characterized of the major 7th chord.

Lydian #2 is identical to the [Lydian Mode](#) except for the augmented second.

Seventh mode of Minor Harmonic - Super Locrian

The fifth mode of the Minor Harmonic Scale is also referred to as Super Locrian:

Degrees	1	b2	b3	b4	b5	b6	bb7
G# Super Locrian	G#	A	B	C	D	E	F
Degrees	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	7
A Minor Harmonic	A	B	C	D	E	F	G#

The G# Super Locrian contains the same notes as the A Harmonic Minor Scale, but starts on another note. The formula is 1 - b2 - b3 - b4 - b5 - b6 - bb7, which is characterized of the diminished chord.

Super Locrian is identical to the [Locrian Mode](#) except for the flatted fourth and the double flatted seventh.