

# Diatonic 7th chords and modes

Think of white light and a prism. When you shine white light through a prism you see its component colors., A rainbow is also an example of this refraction. You can think of Modes this way. The Major scale is the white light and the modes are it's different colors. The Major scale contains all of the diatonic modes. Diatonic means within the key. Notice in C major none of the modes have any accidentals. It's all the notes of C Major.

**VERY IMPORTANT!!!** The qualities of the chords (eg: Major7, minor 7, doinant 7, minor 7 flat 5) are the same for each scale degree no matter what Major key you are in. The II chord in C Major is D minor 7. The II chord in F Major is G minor 7. minor 7 is the quality of all II chords. I, IV, V are majorish... II, III, VI are minorish and VII is diminishedish.

**C major**

2 3 5 7    D-7    E-7    FΔ7    G7    A-7    B-7b5

CΔ7

Scale Degree I II III IV V VI VII

The quality of the modes of each scale degree are also the same no matter what Major key you are in. Dorian is the mode on the 2nd degree. In C major the 2nd degree is D so the mode is D dorian. D Dorian is a C Major scale played from D to D. in F major the 2nd degree is G so the mode on the 2nd degree would be G dorian. G Dorian is an F major scale played from G to G. Make sense? The thing that gives them their different colors is the location of the half steps. The half steps shift one note to the left for each successive mode.

I: C Major (ionian)    II: D dorian    III: E phrygian    IV: F lydian

8    half step

V: G mixolydian    VI: A minor (aeolian)    VII: B locrian

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You can think of each mode in relation to it's parent Major scale: eg: D dorian is C major from D to D. and F lydian is C major from F to F.

D dorian    F lydian

15

Or you can think of each mode as an alteration of either a major or pure minor scale.

II: D dorian = D minor scale with a raised 6th degree

17

D minor

half step higher than----- B flat

III: E phrygian = E minor with flat or lowered 2

19

E minor

half step lower than----- F sharp

IV: F lydian = F major with raised 4

21

F major

V: G mixolydian = G major with lowered 7th

23

G major

VI: A aeolian = A minor

25

A minor

VII: B locrian = B minor with lowered 2 and 5

27

B minor