

IMPROVISING

THE TONES POOL - SCALES

Associating Scales with Chords, gives the opportunity to safely use other notes than chord notes in improvisation.

The idea behind it, is based on filling in the missing notes between the chord notes, to create a scale. Some of these scales resemble the old middle ages church modes, and might be called by that name. (Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Locrian)

Several scales can be constructed for each type of chord, some chromatic tones can be incorporated too (blue notes), but, to start with, we are going to strictly use the scales below:

The image displays five musical staves, each representing a different chord type and its corresponding scale. Each staff includes a chord symbol, a scale name with its interval pattern, a diagram of the scale notes on a treble clef staff, and the name of the mode.

- M Major:** Major scale (WWHWWWH) - Ionian mode. Notes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
- x Dominant:** Major scale b7 (WWHWWHW) - Mixolydian mode. Notes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, b7, 8.
- m Minor:** Minor scale #6 (WHWVWHW) - Dorian mode. Notes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, #6, 7, 8.
- ø Half-dim.:** Minor scale b5 (WHWHVWH) - Loerian #2 or Aeolian b5. Notes: 1, 2, 3, 4, b5, 6, 7, 8.
- o Diminished:** Whole-Half scale (WHVWHVWH) - Notes: 1, 2, b3, 4, #4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

If the chord contains a modified note, (#5, b5), then the scale can be deduced by choosing the best sounding of the Non-Chords tones. Ex: for a Dominant #5 or b5 chord, the whole tone scale can be played.

TETRACHORDS

Scales might be easier to learn if they are related to TETRACHORDS. Any succession of 4 different notes can form a tetrachord. Here are the ones used in our scales:

The image displays five musical staves, each showing a tetrachord pattern on a treble clef staff. The patterns are as follows:

- Major (WWH):** Notes 1, 2, 3, 4 with intervals of Whole, Whole, Half.
- Minor (WHW):** Notes 1, 2, 3, 4 with intervals of Whole, Half, Whole.
- Phrygian (HWW):** Notes 1, 2, 3, 4 with intervals of Half, Whole, Whole.
- Lydian or Whole step (WWW):** Notes 1, 2, 3, 4 with intervals of Whole, Whole, Whole.
- Half-Whole step (HWH):** Notes 1, 2, 3, 4 with intervals of Half, Whole, Half.

Tetrachords are put together with either a Whole Step, Half Step or common note in-between

SCALE/MODE	Lower Tetrachord	In-between	Upper Tetrachord
Major	Major	W	Major
Mixolydian	Major	W	Minor
Dorian	Minor	W	Minor
Half-diminished	Minor	H	Lydian
Diminished	Minor	H	Minor
Whole-Tone	Lydian	=	Lydian