



## ***How can modes be used to improvise a solo?***

Using the key of C Major...

Learn these patterns first [click here](#)

Have a friend play a chord progression in C major, for example C major / G major / A minor / F major.

You could start to solo over the top using the C major scale (start at the 8<sup>th</sup> fret with a major scale pattern). This is fine except you are limited to only a few frets of the guitar. You might want access to higher or lower octaves.

You can use other mode patterns to use more of the guitar. You need to position the mode pattern in the right place for it to work just like other scales you have learned. Examples Phrygian and Mixolydian:

Ionian (major scale) mode starts on C so 8<sup>th</sup> fret.

Phrygian is the 3<sup>rd</sup> mode so starts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of the key which is C..D.. **E** on the 12<sup>th</sup> fret.

Mixolydian is the 5<sup>th</sup> mode so starts on the 5<sup>th</sup> degree of the key which is C..D..E...F... **G** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret.

Now when you jam over the chord progression you will have 3 positions with a different scale pattern in each. These 3 patterns will cover the entire guitar (don't forget the guitar repeats itself at the 12<sup>th</sup> fret). Despite all this complexity you will still only be playing 7 notes!