## **Using Modes**

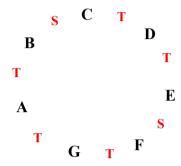
## What is a mode?

Think of all the notes in the major scale laid out in a line e.g. C major scale and therefore the key of C.

C D E F G A B

We can play through this easily in different octaves using our major scale pattern

Now let us take the line of notes above and bend them into a circle and add in the position of tones and semi-tones.



The 7 notes of the C major Scale/Key can be played from different starting points to create different modes.

If we play the notes from C to C going full circle it would be called an *Ionian* mode.

If we ran from D to D it would be called a *Dorian* mode.

E to E a *Phrygian* mode,

F to F a *Lydian* mode,

G to G a Mixo-lydian mode,

A to an Aeolian mode,

B to B a *Locrian* mode.

Each mode has a unique feel to it even thought the 7 notes are the same. This is because by starting in a different place the sequence of T's and S's is changed as shown below.

1 <sup>st</sup> mode -	C – Ionian	T	T	S	T	T	T	S					
2 <sup>nd</sup> mode -	D – Dorian		T	S	T	Т	T	S	T				
	E – Phrygian			S	Τ	Τ	Τ	S	Т	T			
	F – Lydian				T	Т	T	S	T	T			
5 <sup>th</sup> mode -	G – Mixo-lydian					Т	T	S	T	T	S	T	
	A – Aeolian						Τ	S	T	T	S	T	Τ
7 <sup>th</sup> mode -	B – Locrian												

## 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 / Aminor / 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 Mixo-lydian:

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

Phyrgian is the  $3^{rd}$  mode so starts on the  $3^{rd}$  degree of the key which is C..D..  $\underline{E}$  on the  $12^{th}$  fret.

Mixo-lydian 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... $\underline{\boldsymbol{G}}$  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!