

Modal Scales for the Plectrum Banjo

The key of C is shown in all four variants; all the rest are limited to the 2-2-2 and 3-3-3 variants (ascending only) to save space. Simply apply the same 3-1-3 and 3-2-3 fingerings found in C to the rest for a complete exercise. Each pattern has it's own unique use in music.

C C Ionian (Major)

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 2 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4

2-2-2 3-1-3 3-2-3 3-3-3

D Dorian (Minor with sharped 6th)

2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 2 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4

2-2-2 3-1-3 3-2-3 3-3-3

E Phrygian (Minor with flatted 2nd)

2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 2 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4

2-2-2 3-1-3 3-2-3 3-3-3

F Lydian (Major with sharped 4th)

1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 4 2 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4

2-2-2 3-1-3 3-2-3 3-3-3

G Mixolydian (Major with flatted 7th)

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 2 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4

2-2-2 3-1-3 3-2-3 3-3-3

A Aeolian (Natural Minor: This is down one octave to make it easier to read and play.)

2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 2 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4

2-2-2 3-1-3 3-2-3 3-3-3

B Locrian (Minor with flatted 2nd and 5th)

2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 2 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

2-2-2 3-1-3 3-2-3 3-3-3

F F Ionian (Major) G Dorian A Phrygian Bb Lydian

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2
 2-2-2 3-3-3 2-2-2 3-3-3 2-2-2 3-3-3 2-2-2 3-3-3 2-2-2 3-3-3

10-12 10-11 10-12 10-12 11-13-15 14-15-17 12-14 11-13 12-14 12-14 13-15-17 15-17-19 14-15 13-15 14-15 14-15 15-17-18 17-19-20 3-5 3-5 3-5

C Mixolydian D Aeolian E Locrian

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4
 2-2-2 3-3-3 2-2-2 3-3-3 2-2-2 3-3-3 2-2-2 3-3-3 2-2-2 3-3-3

7-5-6-8 7-8-10 5-7 5-6 5-7 9-6-8-10 8-10-12 7-9 6-8 7-8 7-9 10-8-10-11 10-12-14 9-10 8-10 8-10 9-10 12-10-11-13 12-14-15

Bb Bb Ionian (Major) C Dorian D Phrygian Eb Lydian

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2
 3-5 3-4 3-5 3-5 7-4-6-8 7-8-10 5-7 4-6 5-7 5-7 8-6-8-10 8-10-12 7-8 6-8 7-8 7-8 10-8-10-11 10-12-13 8-10 8-10 8-10 8-10

F Mixolydian G Aeolian A Locrian

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4
 12 10-11-13 12-13-15 10-12 10-11 10-12 10-12 11-13-15 13-15-17 12-14 11-13 12-13 12-14 15 13-15-16 15-17-19 2-3 1-3 2-3 5 3-4-6 5-7-8

Eb Eb Ionian (Major) F Dorian G Phrygian Ab Lydian

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2
 8-10 8-9 8-10 8-10 12-9-11-13 12-13-15 10-12 9-11 10-12 10-12 11-13-15 13-15-17 12-13 11-13 12-13 15 13-15-16 15-17-18 1-3 1-3 1-3 1-3

Bb Mixolydian C Aeolian D Locrian

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4
 5-3-4-6 5-6-8 3-5 3-4 3-5 7-4-6-8 6-8-10 5-7 4-6 5-6 5-7 8-6-8-9 8-10-12 7-8 6-8 6-8 7-8 10-8-9-11 10-12-13

Ab

Ab Ionian (Major)

Bb Dorian

C Phrygian

Db Lydian

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 2

1-3 1-2 1-3 1-3 5-2 4-6 5-6 8 3-5 2-4 3-5 3-5 6-4 6-8 6-8 10 5-6 4-6 5-6 5-6 8-6 8-9 8-10 11 6-8 6-8 6-8 6-8

Eb Mixolydian

F Aeolian

G Locrian

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

8-9 11 10-11 13 8-10 8-9 8-10 12-9 11-13 11-13 15 10-12 9-11 10-12 13 11-13 14 13-15 17 12-13 11-13 12-13 15 13-14 16 15-17 18

Db

Db Ionian (Major)

Eb Dorian

F Phrygian

Gb Lydian

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 2

6-8 6-7 6-8 6-8 10 7-9 11 10-11 13 8-10 7-9 8-10 11 9-11 13 11-13 15 10-11 9-11 10-11 13 11-13 14 13-15 16 11-13 11-13 11-13 11-13

Ab Mixolydian

Bb Aeolian

C Locrian

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

15 13-14 16 15-16 18 13-15 13-14 13-15 17-14 16-18 16-18 20 3-5 2-4 3-4 3-5 6 4-6 7 6-8 10 5-6 4-6 4-6 5-6 8 6-7 9 8-10 11

Gb

Gb Ionian (Major)

Ab Dorian

Bb Phrygian

Cb Lydian

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 2

11-13 11-12 11-13 11-13 15 12-14 16 15-16 18 13-15 13-15 12-14 13-15 16 14-16 18 16-18 20 3-4 2-4 3-4 6 4-6 7 6-8 9 4-6 4-6 4-6

Db Mixolydian

Eb Aeolian

F Locrian

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

8 6-7 9 8-9 11 6-8 6-7 6-8 6-8 10 7-9 11 9-11 13 8-10 7-9 8-9 8-10 11 9-11 12 11-13 15 10-11 9-11 10-11 13 11-12 14 13-15 16

F# **F# Ionian (Major)** **G# Dorian** **A# Phrygian** **B Lydian**

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2

11-13 11-12 11-13 15-12-14-16 15-16-18 13-15 12-14 13-15 16-14-16-18 16-18-20 3-4 2-4 3-4 6-4-6-7 6-8-9 4-6 4-6 4-6

Note: Gb and F# are the same notes and fingerings, but with different "spellings"; this is important for music reading and music theory purposes, and is why they are both shown.

C# Mixolydian **D# Aeolian** **E# Locrian**

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

8 6-7-9 8-9-11 6-8 6-7 6-8 6-8 10 7-9-11 9-11-13 8-10 7-9 8-10 11 9-11-12 11-13-15 10-11 9-11 10-11 13-11-12-14 13-15-16

B **B Ionian (Major)** **C# Dorian** **D# Phrygian** **E Lydian**

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2

4-6 4-5 4-6 4-6 8-5-7-9 8-9-11 6-8 5-7 6-8 6-8 9 7-9-11 9-11-13 8-9 7-9 8-9 8-9 11 9-11-12 11-13-14 9-11 9-11 9-11 9-11

F# Mixolydian **G# Aeolian** **A# Locrian**

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

13 11-12-14 13-14-16 11-13 11-12 11-13 15-12-14-16 14-16-18 13-15 12-14 13-15 16-14-16-17 16-18-20 3-4 2-4 3-4 6-4-5-7 6-8-9

E **E Ionian (Major)** **F# Dorian** **G# Phrygian** **A Lydian**

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2

9-11 9-10 9-11 9-11 13 10-12-14 13-14-16 11-13 10-12 11-13 14 12-14-16 14-16-18 13-14 12-14 13-14 16 14-16-17 16-18-19 2-4 2-4 2-4

B Mixolydian **C# Aeolian** **D# Locrian**

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

6 4-5-7 6-7-9 4-6 4-5 4-6 8 5-7-9 7-9-11 6-8 5-7 6-7 6-8 9 7-9-10 9-11-13 8-9 7-9 7-9 8-9 11 9-10-12 11-13-14

A

A Ionian (Major) **B Dorian** **C# Phrygian** **D Lydian**

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2

2-4 2-3 2-4 2-4 6 3-5-7 6-7-9 4-6 4-6 7-5-7-9 7-9-11 6-7 5-7 6-7 9 7-9-10 9-11-12 7-9 7-9 7-9

E Mixolydian **F# Aeolian** **G# Locrian**

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

9-10-12 11-12-14 9-11 9-10 9-11 13 10-12-14 12-14-16 11-13 10-12 11-12 14 12-14-15 14-16-18 13-14 12-14 12-14 13-14 16 14-15-17 16-18-19

D

D Ionian (Major) **E Dorian** **F# Phrygian** **G Lydian**

1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2

7-9 7-8 7-9 7-9 11 8-10-12 11-12-14 9-11 9-10 9-11 12 10-12-14 12-14-16 11-12 10-12 11-12 14 12-14-15 14-16-17 12-14 12-14 12-14

A Mixolydian **B Aeolian** **C# Locrian**

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

16 14-15-17 16-17-19 2-4 2-4 6 3-5-7 5-7-9 4-6 4-6 7 5-7-8 7-9-11 6-7 5-7 6-7 9 7-8-10 9-11-12

G

G Ionian (Major) **A Dorian** **B Phrygian** **C Lydian**

0 2 0 1 0 2 0 2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2

This is the only incidence of open strings.

0 2 0 1 0 2 0 2 4 1-3-5 4-5-7 2-4 1-3 2-4 2-4 5 3-5-7 5-7-9 4-5 4-5 7 5-7-8 7-9-10 5-7 5-7 5-7

D Mixolydian **E Aeolian** **F# Locrian**

4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 2 3 1 3 1 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4

9 7-8-10 9-10-12 7-9 7-8 7-9 7-9 11 8-10-12 10-12-14 9-11 8-10 9-10 9-11 12 10-12-13 12-14-16 11-12 10-12 10-12 11-12 14 12-13-15 14-16-17