

# Exploring scale sounds

Notes are the building blocks of scales, and scales are the building blocks of melodies and chords. By exploring the different scales, you can open your ears to new moods and creative possibilities.

# A method for exploring a scale

1. Choose a scale
2. Practice the scale on your instrument, ascending and descending until the fingering is automatic and easy
3. Learn a lick that uses that scale
4. Use the lick as a “springboard” to your own musical improvisation or composition
5. Research which chords “fit” with the scale you’ve chosen and use these to create a backing you can jam along to.
6. Find a backing track (on youtube) and use this to help you improvise
7. If good ideas emerge during this activity, why not develop them full into an entire song?

# Common scales to explore

- Major – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- Dorian – 1, 2, b3, 4, 5, 6, b7, 8
- Phrygian – 1, b2, b3, 4, 5, b6, b7, 8
- Lydian – 1, 2, 3, #4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- Mixolydian – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, b7, 8
- Aeolian (natural minor) – 1, 2, b3, 4, 5, b6, b7, 8
- Locrian – 1, b2, b3, 4, b5, b6, b7, 8
- Major Pentatonic – 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8
- Minor Pentatonic – 1, b3, 4, 5, b7, 8

# Common chords for each scale (in key of C)

- Major – C, Dm, Em, F, G, Am, Bdim
- Dorian – Cm7, F7
- Phrygian – Cm, Db, Eb
- Lydian – Cmaj7#4,
- Mixolydian – C7
- Aeolian (natural minor) – Cm, Bb, Ab
- Locrian – Cdim
- Major Pentatonic – C, F, G
- Minor Pentatonic – Cm, Bb, Ab