

(Book 2) Lesson 18a.

7 Alphabets are available in music because we use 7 letters. These 7 alphabets are otherwise known as modal scales. We can think of the modes in several different ways. 1. Ionian (starting on the first note of any major key) 2. Dorian (starting on the 2nd note) 3. Phrygian (starting on the 3rd note.) 4. Lydian (starting on the 4th note) 5. Mixo-Lydian (starting on the 5th note) 6. Aeolian (starting on the 6th note) 7. Locrian (starting on the 7th note.) Probably the least important thing is the modal name. The most important thing on the other hand is that they all have their own unique sound quality. For now, just addressing the fact that these scales exist is good enough. You will see the importance of this a bit later in this book.

Notice that the root note "C" can exist in 7 different major keys.

1. C mode in key of C 2. C mode in Bb 3. C mode in Ab

4. C mode in G 5. C mode in F 6. C mode in Eb 7. C mode in Db

Similarly, the root note "D" can exist in 7 different major keys.

1. D mode in key of D 2. D mode in key of C 3. D mode in Bb

4. D mode in A 5. D mode in G 6. D mode in F 7. D mode in Eb

Here are the 7 modes of the root note "E".

1. E mode in E 2. E mode in D 3. E mode in C

4. E mode in B 5. E mode in A 6. E mode in G 7. E mode in F

This same thing would hold true for all notes including all sharp and flat notes. However, you will encounter some interesting key signatures when you begin on a flat or sharp note.

ie: Db= 1 in Db, 2 in Cb, 3 in Bbb (9flats), 4 in Ab, 5 in Gb, 6 in Fb (8flats), 7 in Ebb (10 flats)

The Db should be translated as its enharmonic cousin, C#, if you encounter a key which contains double flats.

Db=C#: C# is 3 in A, 6 in E, 7 in D.

What is the point? You should now return to all of the scale material that has been presented and begin the task of working out the scales and drills using some other key signatures. There is no need to write anything. Just read the material and change the key signature in your mind. Ultimately, you should be able to play in any key but for now, up to 3 sharps or 3 flats would suffice. All of the basic rules of fingering will be exactly the same regardless of the key that you are playing in.