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Carlos Santana

Player Studies

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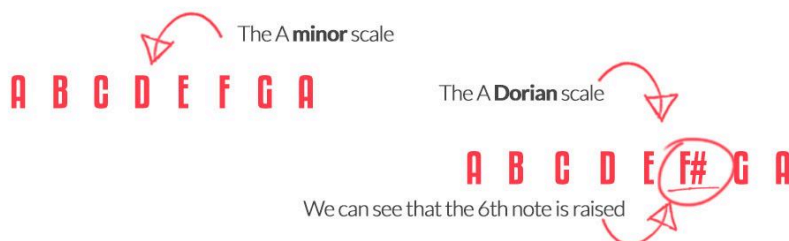
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The Dorian Mode

UNIT 2 • LESSON 6 << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

What Is The Dorian Scale?

To put it simply, the Dorian mode is a major scale starting from the 2nd note. However, it is often the simplicity of this idea that makes it so hard to understand! So, the 2nd degree of any major scale is harmonised to a minor chord (see the theory lab beginners essentials). This, therefore, makes the Dorian scale a minor scale. To fully understand the workings of the Dorian scale, we need to compare it to the natural minor scale. So, below we have written out the A Minor scale and the A Dorian scale. Remember that in order to work out the A Dorian scale, we simply wrote out the G major scale, but starting on A. Here are the scales:



We can see that the only difference between the two scales is the 6th note, which is raised in the Dorian scale. Therefore, all we have to do to create any Dorian scale is take our minor scale shapes, and when we hit the 6th note, sharpen it and voila!

Course navigation

UNIT 1

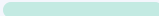
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UNIT 2

The Dorian Mode

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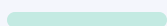
Carlos Santana is a big user user of the Dorian mode. In this course we will discuss firstly what the Dorian mode is, and then how to apply it to your lead playing in order to play like Santana!

Lessons:

-  **What Is The Dorian Scale?**
-  **Scale Shapes 1-3**
-  **Scale Shapes 4-5**
-  **Dorian Lick 1**
-  **Dorian Lick 2**

UNIT 3

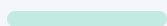
Dorian Chords & Rhythm

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UNIT 4

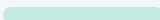
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UNIT 5

Getting The Tone

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Dorian! There is a lot more we need to discover about the Dorian mode, but this is a great start!



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