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# Metal Essentials

**LEVEL 2** • Guitar Skills

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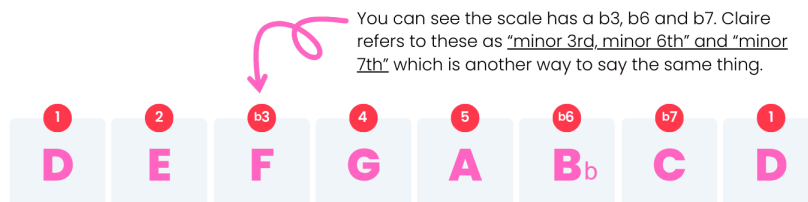
## The Modes of Metal

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 1** NEXT >>

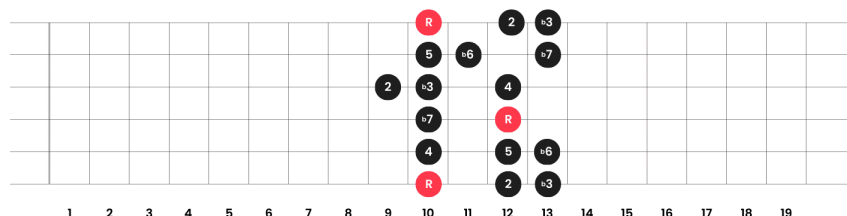
Lesson notes Diagrams

### 3 Minor Modes

We can think of modes simply as different scales that can give a specific mood or sound to the song. In the case of metal, we're often after quite an angry, sad or dark sound (or however you choose to describe it), and these all are well represented in the minor modes, **rather than major modes which are typically brighter**. When dealing with minor modes, we need to base it all around the natural minor first and alter the scale from there. So, in the key of D, the natural minor looks like this:



D Minor Box 1



Not quite sure on Aeolian?

## Course navigation

### UNIT 1

## The Modes of Metal

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In this unit we are diving into the world of modes within metal. Claire teaches all the modes you'll need for metal riffs, both to learn and to create your own!

Lessons:

- 3 Minor Modes
- Dropping the D!
- Modes on the D String!
- Phrygian Dominant
- First Modal Riff!

### UNIT 2

## VHS

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### UNIT 3

## Metal Toolbox

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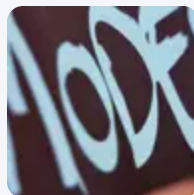
### UNIT 4

## Savage

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This is the absolute base of everything we're talking about in this course and unit, so it's good to have a handle on it. From the theory point of view check out The Modes theory lab course, and in terms of knowing the scale, it's all covered in Lead Beginners Level 2.



### The Modes

Theory Lab

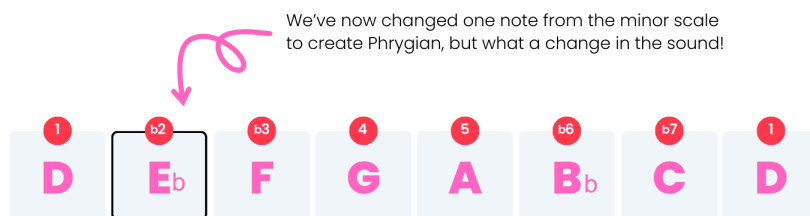


### Lead Guitar Level 2

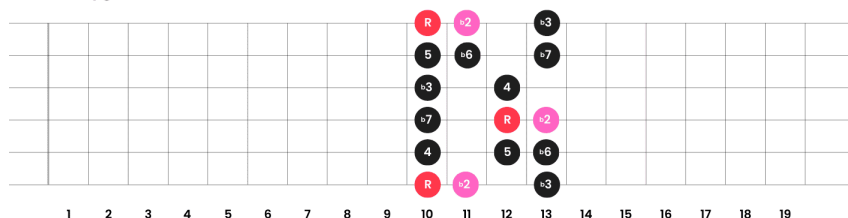
Guitar Skills

## The phrygian mode...

With our base minor scale set, we can start to change some of the intervals to make our modal scale formulae. We'll start with Phrygian, which is a minor scale with a "minor 2nd" (flattened 2nd). This creates an even darker sound, which is widely used in metal, and ends up looking like this:



D Phrygian Box 1





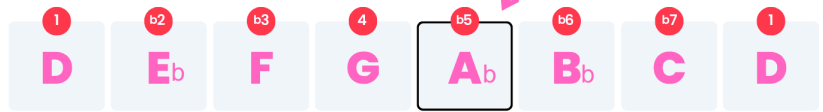
“ That  
minor 2nd  
interval  
sounds  
quite  
dissonant,  
which is a  
sound  
that we  
really like  
in Metal! It  
makes  
everything  
even  
darker!

**Claire** ”

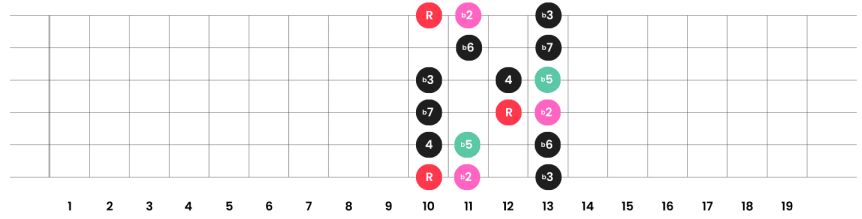
## The locrian mode...


We can now take that Phrygian mode, and change one more note to get Locrian. The new note we'll shift is the fifth degree, which we'll flatten to create a "diminished 5th" interval. This gives us the Locrian mode, and it looks like this:

We've now changed one note from the Phrygian scale to create Locrian, the darkest of all the modes!



D Locrian Box 1



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