

Scales Compared

- The Major Scale is the most fundamental scale.
All other scales are defined in relation to it.

Because they have a “major third,” these three scales all have a brighter, happy sound:

Major Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
(Ionian Mode)

Mixolydian: 1 2 3 4 5 6 $\flat 7$

Major Pentatonic: 1 2 3 5 6

Because they have a “minor third,” these three scales all have a sadder/moody sound:

Natural Minor: 1 2 $\flat 3$ 4 5 $\flat 6$ $\flat 7$
(Aeolian Mode)

Dorian: 1 2 $\flat 3$ 4 5 6 $\flat 7$

Minor Pentatonic: 1 $\flat 3$ 4 5 $\flat 7$

