Modal and Harmonized Modal Scales for the Spanish Guitar with notes on underlying theory C. Nelson - fourth edition -

Modal and Harmonized Modal Scales for the Spanish Guitar

These scales are written in all modes along with the associated harmonic and melodic minors of each distinct diatonic key signature over the full range of the Spanish guitar. Following each basic scale are harmonized triads and seventh chords covering a single octave. While the scales are fully fingered for the left hand, variations on both fingering and harmonization are possible. Empty staves have been supplied at the end of each section for possible use by the reader. Notation of accidentals follows the convention that they are cancelled in following measures unless explicitly re-written. A preface outlines theory underlying these scales and defines some basic chord structures.

The scales should be played using right hand techniques and rhythmic patterns appropriate to individual styles and possible weaknesses to be strengthened. Single note scales may be played both with the thumb and with alternations of two or more fingers. It is recommended that *apoyando* strokes (wherein the thumb or finger rests on the adjacent string after each stroke) be used to develop precision, strength and speed. Harmonized scales may be played with various arpeggio, tremolo and strumming techniques.

Application to these scales will bestow benefits in addition to mere stretching and strengthening of the hands. Such benefits include increased facility in reading over the full range of the guitar and enhanced awareness of the sonic relationships between sequences of notes and triads which will be of benefit in composition and improvisation. It is suggested that the scales be integrated into a daily regimen in which, perhaps, all scales in one key signature are played. All keys may be so covered over a cycle of 12 days. It is also possible to give emphasis to specific keys or to scales of specific modes such as the Ionian (major), melodic minor or if, for example, flamenco is of specific interest, the Phrygian. In general, however, it is probably best to broaden the advice of Andres Segovia, of whose <u>Diatonic Major and Minor Scales</u> this work is an extension, and recommend that equal attention be given to all modes in all keys.

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NOTES ON THEORY

Music for the guitar is written an octave high for convenience in distributing the range of the instrument around the treble clef. For example, middle C is written within the staff lines rather than on the line below them, where it appears for the piano.

Intervals between notes are measured from the lower of two notes to the higher and are called unisons, 2nds, ..., 7ths, octaves and beyond according to the inclusive number of letter names they span.

An interval is said to be a *major interval* (M) if the upper note falls in the major key whose tonic is the lower except that the unison, octave and 4ths and 5ths which do so are said to be *perfect intervals* (P). A *minor interval* (m) is a major interval reduced by a half tone. A perfect or minor interval reduced by a half tone is said to be a *diminished interval* (d). An *augmented interval* (A) is formed by increasing a major or perfect interval by a half tone.

int.	uni-	m2	M2/	A2/	M3/	A3/	A4/	P5/	A5/	M6/	A6/	M7	oc-
name	son		d3	m3	d4	P4	d5	d6	m6	d7	m7		tave
tones	0	1/2	1	1 1/2	2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	4	4 1/2	5	5 1/2	6

An interval is said to be *inverted* when the upper note of the interval is decreased by an octave or the lower note is increased by an octave. Inverted perfect intervals are themselves perfect intervals while inverted major intervals become minor intervals, augmented become diminished and vice-versa. The sum of an interval and its inversion is 9 while the sum of the spans of their tones is 6.

Various *pentatonic (5 tone) scales* may be constructed using major 2nds and minor 3rds. *Whole note scales* (of 6 tones) are built with major 2nds. Many other possibilities exist but dominant European melodic tradition is based on the following *modes*, 7 note scales built on major and minor 2nds as shown:

Ionian	MMmMMMm	(scales in the Ionian mode are called <i>major scales</i> . Note that each
Dorian	MmMMMMM	of the following modes uses the same cycle of intervals starting on
Phrygian	mMMMmMM	respectively increasing degrees)
Lydian	MMMmMMm	
Mixolydian	MMmMMmM	
Aeolian	MmMMmMM	(scales in the Aeolian mode are called <i>natural minor scales</i>)
Locrian	mMMmMMM	

Relative minor scales begin on the 6th degree of the related major scale. The natural minor scale uses the exact notes of the related major scale. The *harmonic minor scale* sharps the 7th degree of the natural minor. The *melodic minor scale* sharps both the 6th and 7th degrees on the ascending scale but uses the natural minor on the descending.

Major and minor key signatures

(entries in angle brackets are enharmonic (tonally equivalent) keys not normally used; sharps accumulate from left to right and flats from right to left)

sharps or flats	0 -	1(F) -	2(C) -	3(G) -	4(D) -	5(A) <7(F)>	6(E) <6(C)>	<7(B)> 5(G)	- 4(D)	- 3(A)	- 2(E)	- 1(B)
major	С	G	D	А	Е	B <c<sub>>></c<sub>	F# <g>></g>	<c\$>D,</c\$>	Aþ	Еþ	B♭	F
minor	А	Е	В	F	C#	G# <a >	D# <e>></e>	<a\$>B\$</a	F	С	G	D

A note is said to be *diatonic* if it lies on the conventional scale of a given key signature. *Non-diatonic, chromatic* or, loosely speaking, *"accidental"* notes are those which do not.

Diatonic notes are based on division of a octave. The physics of this is such that half tones are not exactly half-way in frequency between two tones and, furthermore, that a "sharp" of a note is not exactly equal to the "flat" of the note above it. Any instrument *"justly"* (precisely) tuned to a given key will sound more or less noticeably out of tune in any other. This gave rise, at around the time of J. S. Bach and the advent of sophisticated instruments capable of being played in any key but not easily tunable, to the idea of *"temperament,"* wherein semitones of an octave are de-tuned slightly so that they are close to being in tune in any key.

This leads to the question of tuning. It can be said, with reference to the idea of temperament, that no typical western musical instrument is ever in tune. The open strings of the guitar in standard tuning are a case in point: they are tuned from the bottom "E" up a 4th to "A," another 4th to "D," a 4th to "G," a 3rd to "B" and a final 4th to the top "E." The problem with this is that it is impossible – if the major 3rd between "G" and "B" is justly tuned then the resulting "B" and the top "E" will be out of tune with the bottom three strings. The guitar, however, is commonly tuned in this way with the result then informally "tempered" to suit the music being played.

An approach I prefer can be called *Pythagorean tuning*: The lower 4ths are tuned as above but the interval between "G" and "B" is ignored, "B" is tuned to an octave above the 5th above the bottom "E" and the top "E" is tuned to the 5th over "A." The result is a slightly sharped 3rd between "G" and "B" but the result is a good start and can be tempered as above. Fretting raises such questions to a higher level of complexity but, since that is out of the control of any but guitar makers, perhaps it is best left simply at "if it sounds good, it is good."

As a final note on tuning, it has been said that the guitar and piano "don't sound good together." I do not find this to be true but one must remember that the piano is a tempered instrument. In playing with tempered (and effectively untuneable) instruments one must tune not for theory or harmonic purity but rather to the instruments one is accompanying.

Enharmonic notes are those which are identical in a so-called *equal tempered* scale but which are written or *"spelled"* differently – C sharp and D flat, for example. But enharmonic notes are not, in fact, identical. For this and other reasons, spelling conventions for chromatic notes have evolved.

A common convention for major keys is that the 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} , 6^{th} and 7^{th} tones of the scale are flatted while the 4^{th} is sharped in order to notate the 12 semitones of the octave. For the relative minor the convention is different. The 2^{nd} (the 7^{th} of the corresponding major key) is flatted while the 3^{rd} , 4^{th} , 6^{th} and 7^{th} are sharped. Thus, for example, the semitone between G and A may be written as A flat in the key of C major. In A minor, however, it would be written as G sharp.

In practice, however, these conventions are widely ignored, particularly in cases such as when the chromatic note written according to them would be bracketed by the diatonic note with the same letter name. The sequence A–A flat–A would, for example, normally appear as A–G sharp–A. In cases where enharmonic substitution is made for such reasons it is common to propagate it in the immediate vicinity to minimize designating the same note in different ways.

CHORD NAME	SYMBOL	LOWER INT.	UPPER	OUTER	INTERVAL	
		OR CHORD	INT.	INT.	STRUCTURE	
major triad	M or Maj	maj 3rd	min 3rd	perf 5th	I-III-V	
minor triad	m or min	min 3rd	maj 3rd	perf 5th	I-♭III-V	
diminished triad	° or dim	min 3rd	min 3rd	dim 5th	I-þIII-þV	
suspended 4th triad	sus4	perf 4th	maj 2nd	perf 5th	I-IV-V	
augmented triad	+ or aug	maj 3rd	maj 3rd	aug 5th	I-III-#V	
aug. (Italian) 6th	+6	maj 3rd	aug 4th	aug 6th	I-III-#VI	
minor 6th	m6	min triad	maj 2nd	maj 6th	I-þIII-V-VI	
major 6th	6 or M6	maj triad	maj 2nd	maj 6th	I-III-V-VI	
dominant 7th	7	maj triad	min 3rd	min 7th	I-III-V-þVII	
seven/six	7/6	partial M6	min 2nd	min 7th	I-III-VI-þVII	
dom 7th with susp 4th	7sus4	sus4 triad	min 3rd	min 7th	I-IV-V-þVII	
dom 7th with flat 5th	7-5	maj þ5th triad	maj 3rd	min 7th	I-III-þV-þVII	
major 7th	M7	maj triad	maj 3rd	maj 7th	I-III-V-VII	
minor 7th	m7	min triad	min 3rd	min 7th	I-þIII-V-þVII	
minor major 7th	mM7 / m+7	min triad	maj 3rd	maj 7th	I-µIII-V-VII	
half-diminished 7th	ø7 / m7þ5	dim triad	maj 3rd	min 7th	I-þIII-þV-þVII	
diminished 7th	°7 / dim7	dim triad	min 3rd	dim 7th	I-þIII-þV-þpVII	
dom 7th augmented	7+	aug triad	dim 3rd	min 7th	I-III-#V-bVII	
major 7th augmented	M7+	aug triad	min 3rd	maj 7th	I-III-#V-VII	
major added 9th	add9	maj triad	perf 5th	maj 9th	I-III-V-IX	
major 9th	M9	M7	min 3rd	maj 9th	I-III-V-VII-IX	
dominant 9th	9	7	maj 3rd	maj 9th	I-III-V->VII-IX	
six/nine	6/9	M6	perf 4th	maj 9th	I-III-V-VI-IX	
dom 9th with susp 4th	9sus4	7sus4	maj 3rd	maj 9th	I-IV-V-,VII-IX	
dom 7th with flat 9th	7-9	7	min 3rd	min 9th	I-III-V-þVII-þIX	
minor added 9th	madd9	min triad	perf 5th	maj 9th	I-þIII-V-IX	
minor 9th	m9	m7	maj 3rd	maj 9th	I-þIII-V-þVII-IX	
minor major 9th	mM9 / m+9	mM7	min 3rd	maj 9th	I-JIII-V-VII-IX	
dominant 11th	11	9	min 3rd	maj 11th	I-III-V-,VII-IX-XI	
augmented 11th	+11	9	maj 3rd	aug 11th	I-III-V-þVII-IX-‡XI	
minor 11th	m11	m9	min 3rd	maj 11th	I-JIII-V-JVII-IX-XI	
dominant 13th	13	11	maj 3rd	maj 13th	I-III-V-JVII-IX-XI-XIII	
minor 13th	m13	m11	maj 3rd	maj 13th	I-þIII-V-þVII-IX-XI-XIII	

DEFINITIONS OF THE BASIC TRIADS AND SOME EXTENDED CHORDS

Inverted chords are formed by raising the root, root and third or root, third and fifth (in the case of chords of 4 notes) one octave. These are the **1st**, **2nd** and **3rd inversions**, respectively. "Internal" inversions, such as raising the third of a triad an octave, are also possible and often required in fingering for the guitar. Root and inverted triads may be denoted by following a chord symbol with either a letter or numbers showing lower and outer intervals as follows -

root form:	a or ${}^{5}_{3}$
1st inversion:	b or 6_3
2nd inversion:	c or $^{6}_{4}$

ROOT	I	П	Ш	IV	V	VI	VII
	tonic	super-	mediant	sub-	dominant	sub-	leading
MODE	tome	tonic	inculait	dominant	uommant	mediant	tone
Ionian	maior	minor	minor	maior	maior	minor	diminished
(major)	M7	m7	m7	M7	7	m7	ø7
Dorian	minor	minor	major	major	minor	diminished	major
	m7	m7	M7	7	m7	ø7	M7
Phrygian	minor	major	major	minor	diminished	major	minor
••	m7	M7	7	m7	ø7	M7	m7
Lydian	major	major	minor	diminished	major	minor	minor
	M7	7	m7	^ø 7	M7	m7	m7
Mixolydian	major	minor	diminished	major	minor	minor	major
	7	m7	ø7	M7	m7	m7	M7
Aeolian	minor	diminished	major	minor	minor	major	major
(nat. minor)	m7	ø7	M7	m7	m7	M7	7
harmonic	minor	diminished	augmented	minor	major	major	diminished
minor	mM7	ø7	M7+	m7	7	M7	°7
asc. melodic	minor	minor	augmented	major	major	diminished	diminished
minor	mM7	m7	M7+	7	7	°7	^ø 7
Locrian	diminished	major	minor	minor	major	major	minor
	ø7	M7	m7	m7	M7	7	m7

TRIADS AND SEVENTH CHORDS OF THE HARMONIZED MODAL AND MINOR SCALES

Modal and Minor Scales (natural)



Em7

Dm7

Am7

G7

FM7



















































Modal and Minor Scales (one sharp)













































Modal and Minor Scales (two sharps)



























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Modal and Minor Scales (three sharps)

































 $C ||_7 D ||_{07}$ F # M7 G # m7 AM7 + B7















Modal and Minor Scales (four sharps)



































































Modal and Minor Scales (five sharps)

































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Modal and Minor Scales (six sharps)

























































Modal and Minor Scales (five flats)

















































Modal and Minor Scales (four flats)











































Modal and Minor Scales (three flats)



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Modal and Minor Scales (two flats)















































Modal and Minor Scales (one flat)





























































