

# ***JAZZ THEORY***

Finding keys for modes of major  
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It is my belief that the quickest way to learn and incorporate new musical ideas and concepts is to relate the new material to what you already know and with which you already feel secure. The following is a brief explanation of relating modes to home scale for quick reference. While any of the modes could be used as the base or 'home,' it has been my experience that almost all players, even the less practiced, know their major scales (or at least most of them). For this explanation I will be relating the modes of major - Lydian, Dominant (Mixolydian), Dorian, Aeolian (Pure or Natural Minor), Phrygian and Locrian (Half-Diminished) - to their related major key. Keep in mind that this works because it is diatonic harmony (i.e. follows the order of sharps and flats). While this basic concept - relating a known to an unknown - will very often work nicely with other scales/chords, relating via the order of sharps and flats will only work with diatonic scales.

1. You must know the order of sharps and flats so well that you do not need to think about them but just react. You must memorize the orders if you do not know them.

The order of sharps - F# C# G# D# A# E# B#

The order of flats - Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb Fb

(Notice the order of flats is the same as sharps backwards, and reverse)

2. You must know all twelve major scales with little or no hesitation.
3. Remember that you will be either adding or taking away sharps and flats in their order to find the various scales that relate to the key in question.
4. You will find the following by:
  - a. **Lydian** - either adding one sharp or taking away one flat from the major key.  
Ex. - A Major, three sharps - add a sharp and you have A Lydian, four sharps.  
Ex. - Eb Major, three flats - take away a flat and you have Eb Lydian, two flats.
  - b. **Dominant (Mixolydian)** - either take away one sharp or add one flat from the major key.  
Ex. - A Major, three sharps - take away a sharp and you have A Dominant, two sharps.  
Ex. - Eb Major, three flats - add one flat and you have Eb Dominant, four flats.
  - c. **Dorian (Minor)** - either take away two sharps or add two flats from the major key.  
Ex. - A Major, three sharps - take away two sharps and you have A Dorian, one sharp.  
Ex. - Eb Major, three flats - add two flats and you have Eb Dorian, five flats.
  - d. **Aeolian (Pure/Natural Minor)** - either take away three sharps or add three flats to the major key.  
Ex. - A Major, three sharps - take away three sharps and you have A Aeolian, no sharps.  
Ex. - Eb Major, three flats - add three flats and you have Eb Aeolian, six flats.  
(Aeolian is also known as the Relative Minor to the Major Key with the same key signature)
  - e. **Phrygian** - either take away four sharps or add four flats to the major key.  
Ex. - A Major, three sharps - take away four sharps and you have A Phrygian, one flat.  
Ex. - Eb Major, three flats - add four flats and you have Eb Phrygian, seven flats.
  - f. **Locrian (Half-Diminish)** - simply go up one half step and use that major key signature.  
Ex. - A Locrian will have two flats, relates to Bb Major.  
Ex. - Eb Locrian will have four sharps, relates to E Major.