

The first note of the Dorian's scale falls on the fourth fret and follows the scheme $1-\frac{1}{2}-1-1-1-\frac{1}{2}-1$. Its tuning is:

(X+1)
(X+4)
X
X



Playing on the middle and bass strings works well in the Dorian, especially on the bass string, with the sixth fret as a keytone. At times you may hit notes reminiscent of a merry-go-round slightly out of whack, but when we get into chording, remember the Dorian.

You generally can play the same songs in the Dorian mode as in the Aeolian, but of course you start at a different place. The Dorian has an altogether different "feel," and is excellent when the music doesn't demand a strong minor like the Aeolian. Transposing songs from one mode to another will acquaint you with many of the modes' scales.

THE PHRYGIAN MODE

You may find it difficult to tune into this mode when your unisons are pitched around D because your bass string may break. You might want to tune all the strings down a step or so to somewhere around C. If you are in doubt as to whether your strings can handle tuning into Phrygian without lowering everything, check in the back of the book and get acquainted with the Range and Tuning Guide.

The fixed scheme of this mode is $\frac{1}{2}-1-1-1-\frac{1}{2}-1-1$. Its original keytone was E, and the notation is:

(X+2)
(X+5)
X
X