

Talking Bass

**Scale Reference  
Manual  
For Bass Guitar**

**Mark J Smith**

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# TalkingBass.net

## Scale Reference Manual

### for Bass Guitar

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## Introduction

Welcome to the *Talkingbass.net Scale Reference Manual*. This short ebook is offered free to all [www.talkingbass.net](http://www.talkingbass.net) subscribers and also serves as a taster of the complete *Study Book Of Scales*, available through TalkingBass Media at the [www.talkingbass.net](http://www.talkingbass.net) store.

The scales patterns are presented in a systemized way that facilitates quick and easy navigation. All scales are displayed in standard notation, tablature and as fretboard diagrams. The intervallic formula of each scale and alternative names are also included.

A recommended fingering of the fretting hand is provided between the standard notation and tablature and also on the circles of the neck diagrams. Red circles are used on the neck diagrams to indicate the Tonic.

The shapes used for each scale are limited to the most common, one octave patterns. For a more exhaustive list of scale shapes please consult the *Study Book Of Scales*. Most scales are written from a C Tonic to allow for ease of transposition to other tonics and keys. The modes of the major and minor scales are written both from the relative scale degrees and the tonic C. This allows the reader to see the modes both as shapes derived from a parent key and as independent scale patterns.

In this book I won't be delving into the basic principles of scale construction or modal relationships. That information can be found in a multitude of theory and tuition books, articles and videos. This book is intended as a manual for quick reference and basic practice. The *Study Book Of Scales* provides much more detailed information and exercises on scale construction, modal relationships, the Tri Shape System and complete fretboard coverage.

## About The Author

Mark J Smith is a professional bass player from the UK and creator of [www.talkingbass.net](http://www.talkingbass.net). During the past 20 years Mark has worked all over the UK and the World as a sideman and bandleader, performing every style of music from pop to rock to jazz to classical in ensembles ranging from trio to orchestra. As a reading sideman, Mark has worked with hundreds of acts such as Jimmy James, Susan Maughn, Peter Grant, Bucks Fizz, Ruthie Henshall, Zoe Tyler, Gerard Kenny, Iris Williams, Elaine Delmar, Barbara Dickson and many, many more.

Mark has a First Class BA(hons) Degree in Music from Leeds College Of Music and many years of experience teaching in music colleges and universities around the UK.

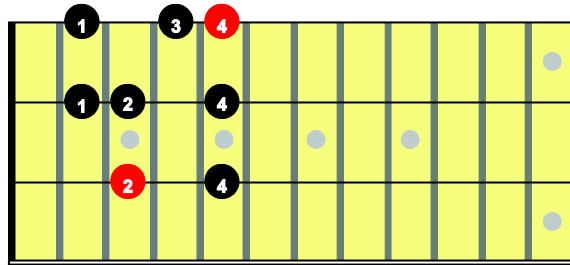
# Scale Reference Guide

## 1 - Common Scales

### Major Scale

Alternative Names: Ionian

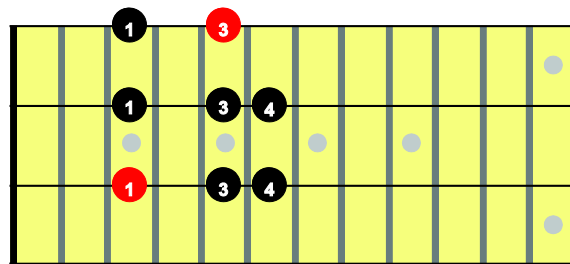
Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7



### Natural Minor Scale

Alternative Names: Aeolian

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,b6,b7



## Harmonic Minor Scale

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,b6,7

## Melodic Minor Scale (Traditional – Natural Minor Descent)

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,6,7,8,7,b6,5,4,b3,2

Ascending

Descending

## Melodic Minor Scale (Jazz Minor - Same Descent)

Alternative Names: Jazz Minor

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,6,7

## Major Pentatonic Scale

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,5,6



## Minor Pentatonic Scale

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,b3,4,5,b7

## Blues Scale

Alternative Names: Minor Blues

Intervallic Construction: 1,b3,4,#4,5,b7

## Whole Tone Scale

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,#4,#5,b7

## Diminished Scale (half step/whole step)

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,3,#4,5,6,b7



## 2a - Modes of the Major Scale (Relative)

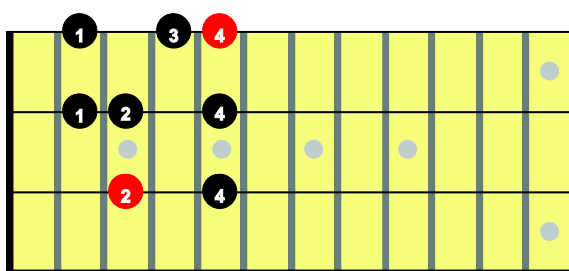
### 1 - C Ionian

Alternative Names: Major

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

3 5 2 3 5 2 4 5 4 2 5 3 2 5 3



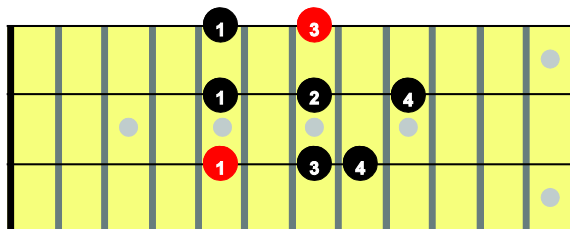
### 2 - D Dorian

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,6,b7

1 3 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 4 2 1 4 3 1

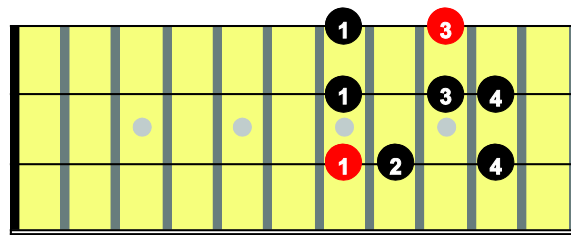
5 7 8 5 7 9 5 7 5 9 7 5 8 7 5



### 3 - E Phrygian

Alternative Names:

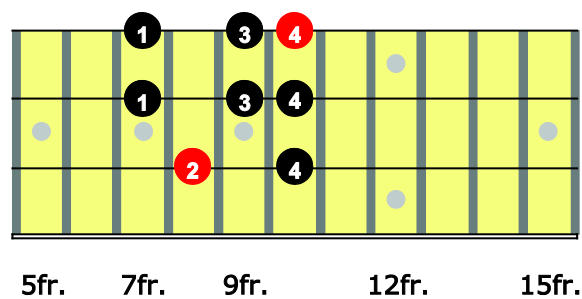
Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,4,5,b6,b7



### 4 - F Lydian

Alternative Names:

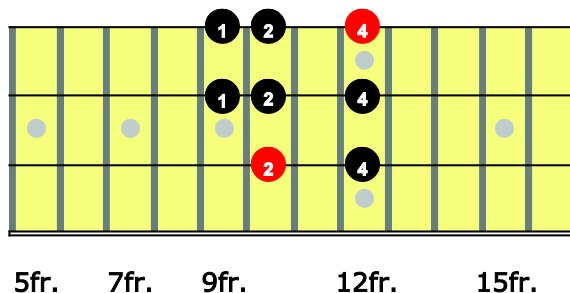
Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,#4,5,6,7



## 5 – G Mixolydian

Alternative Names:

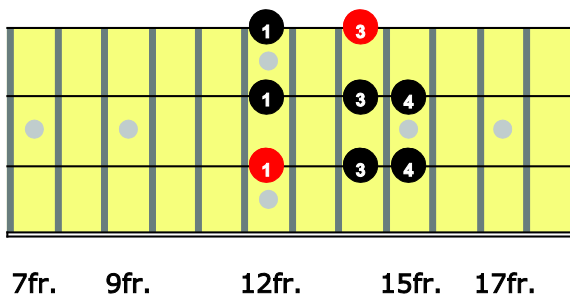
Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,5,6,b7



## 6 – A Aeolian

Alternative Names: Natural Minor, Descending Melodic Minor

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,b6,b7



## 7 - B Locrian

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,4,b5,b6,b7

## 2b - Modes of the Major Scale (Common Tonic)

### 1 - C Ionian

Alternative Names: Major

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

## 2 - C Dorian

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,6,b7

## 3 - C Phrygian

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,4,5,b6,b7



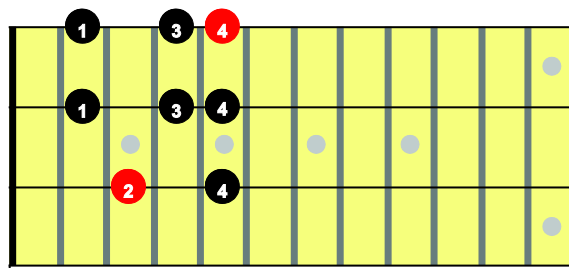
### 4 - C Lydian

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,#4,5,6,7

2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 3 1 4 3 1 4 2

3 5 2 4 5 2 4 5 4 2 5 4 2 5 3



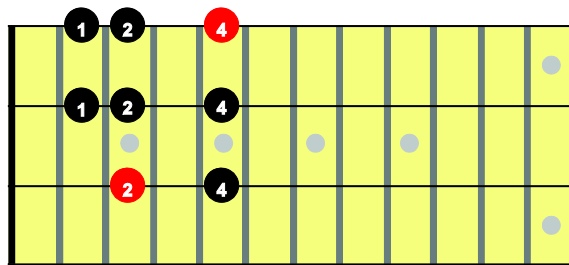
### 5 - C Mixolydian

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,5,6,b7

2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 2

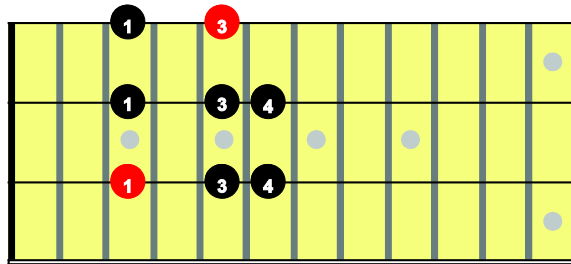
3 5 2 3 5 2 3 5 3 2 5 3 2 5 3



## 6 - C Aeolian

Alternative Names: Natural Minor, Descending Melodic Minor

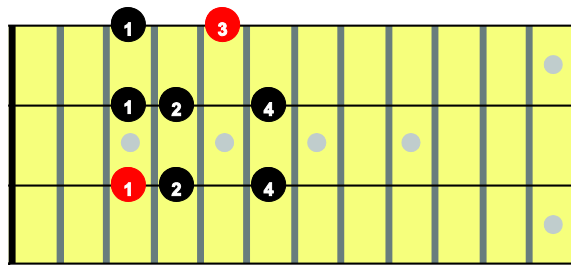
Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,b6,b7



## 7 - C Locrian

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,4,b5,b6,b7



## 3a - Modes Of The Harmonic Minor Scale (Relative)

### 1 - C Harmonic Minor

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,b6,7

### 2 - D Locrian Natural 6

Alternative Names: Locrian #6

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,4,b5,6,b7

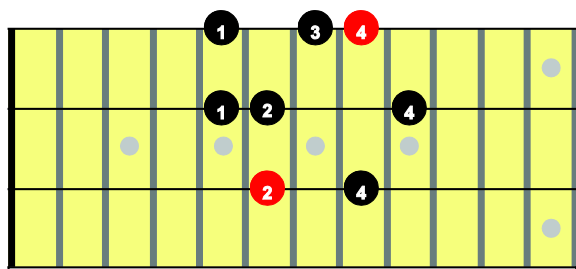
### 3 - Eb Ionian Augmented

Alternative Names: Ionian #5

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,#5,6,7

2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 3 1 4 2 1 4 2

6 8 5 6 9 5 7 8 7 5 9 6 5 8 6



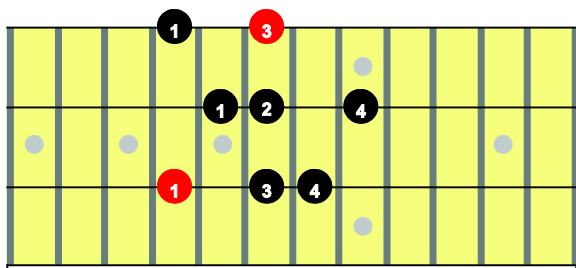
### 4 - F Dorian #11

Alternative Names: Dorian #4, Romanian, Romanian Minor

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,#4,5,6,b7

1 3 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 4 2 1 4 3 1

8 10 11 9 10 12 8 10 8 12 10 9 11 10 8



5fr. 7fr. 9fr. 12fr. 15fr.

### 5 – G Phrygian Dominant

Alternative Names: Mixolydian b2b6, Mixolydian b9 b13, Balkan  
 Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,3,4,5,b6,b7

3 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 3

10 11 9 10 12 8 10 12 10 8 12 10 9 11 10

5fr. 7fr. 9fr. 12fr. 15fr.

### 6 – Ab Lydian #9

Alternative Names: Lydian #2  
 Intervallic Construction: 1,#2,3,#4,5,6,7

1 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 3 1 4 3 1 4 1

11 14 10 12 13 10 12 13 12 10 13 12 10 14 11

7fr. 9fr. 12fr. 15fr. 17fr.

## 7 - B Ultralocrian

Alternative Names: Superlocrian bb7

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,b4,b5,b6,bb7

## 3b - Modes Of The Harmonic Minor Scale (Common Tonic)

### 1 - C Harmonic Minor

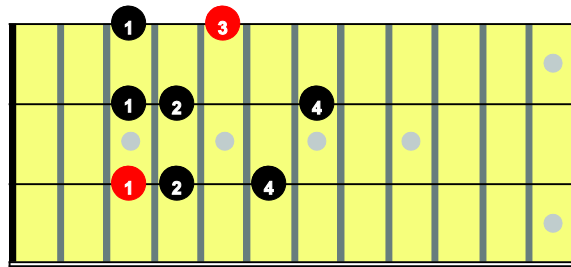
Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,b6,7

## 2 – C Locrian Natural 6

Alternative Names: *Locrian #6*

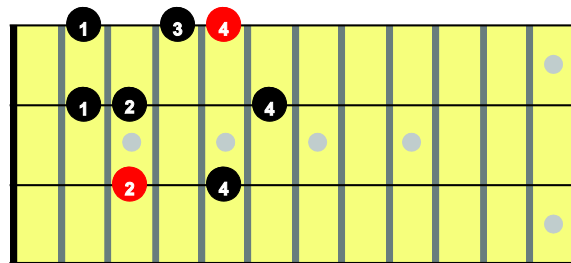
Intervallic Construction: *1,b2,b3,4,b5,6,b7*



## 3 – C Ionian Augmented

Alternative Names: *Ionian #5*

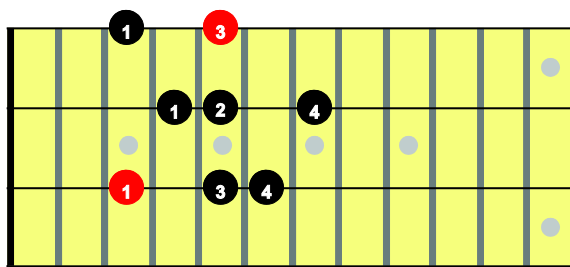
Intervallic Construction: *1,2,3,4,#5,6,7*



### 4 – C Dorian #11

Alternative Names: Dorian #4, Romanian, Romanian Minor

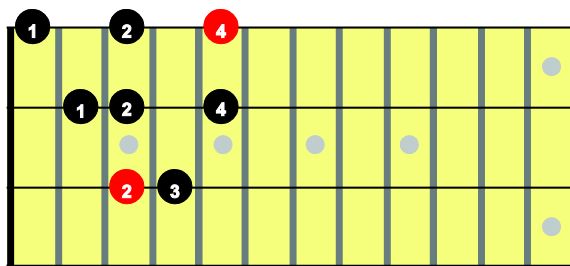
Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,#4,5,6,b7



### 5 – C Phrygian Dominant

Alternative Names: Mixolydian b2b6, Mixolydian b9 b13, Balkan

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,3,4,5,b6,b7





## 6 - C Lydian #9

Alternative Names: Lydian #2

Intervallic Construction: 1,#2,3,#4,5,6,7

## 7 - C Ultralocrian

Alternative Names: Superlocrian bb7

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,b4,b5,b6,bb7

## 4a - Modes of the Melodic Minor Scale (Relative)

### 1 - C Melodic Minor

Alternative Names: Jazz Minor

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,5,6,7

### 2 - D Dorian b9

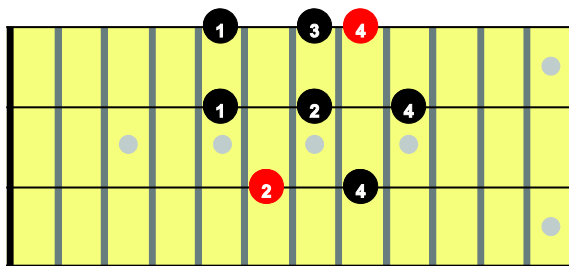
Alternative Names: Dorian b2, Javanese

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,4,5,6,b7

### 3 – Eb Lydian Augmented

Alternative Names: Lydian #5

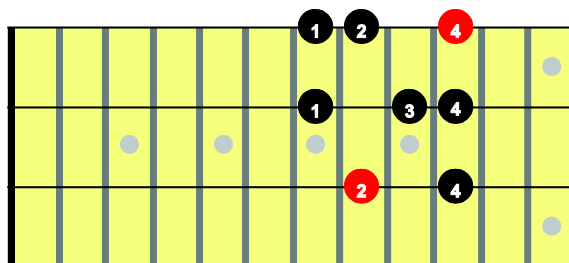
Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,#4,#5,6,7



### 4 – F Lydian Dominant Scale

Alternative Names: Lydian b7, Overtone, Mixolydian #11, Mixolydian #4

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,#4,5,6,b7



### 5 – G Mixolydian b13

Alternative Names: Mixolydian b6, Hindu  
 Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,5b6,b7

2 4 1 2 4 1 2 4 2 1 4 2 1 4 2

10 12 9 10 12 8 10 12 10 8 12 10 9 12 10

5fr. 7fr. 9fr. 12fr. 15fr.

### 6 – A Aeolian b5

Alternative Names: Semilocrian, Locrian #2, Half Diminished  
 Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,b5,b6,b7

1 3 4 1 2 4 1 3 1 4 2 1 4 3 1

12 14 15 12 13 15 12 14 12 15 13 12 15 14 12

7fr. 9fr. 12fr. 15fr. 17fr.

## 7 - B Superlocrian Scale

Alternative Names: *Locrian b4, Diminished Whole Tone, Altered*

Intervallic Construction: *1,b2,b3,b4,b5,b6,b7*

## 4b - Modes of the Melodic Minor Scale (Common Tonic)

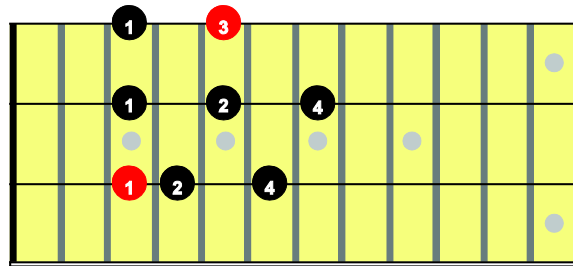
### 1 - C Melodic Minor

Alternative Names: *Jazz Minor*

Intervallic Construction: *1,2,b3,4,5,6,7*

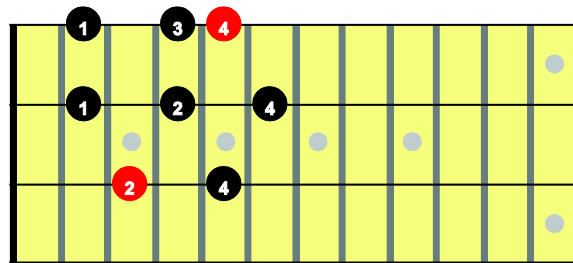
## 2 – C Dorian b9

Alternative Names: Dorian b2, Javanese  
 Intervallic Construction: 1, b2, b3, 4, 5, 6, b7



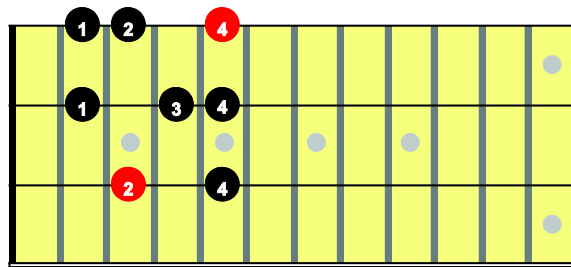
## 3 – C Lydian Augmented

Alternative Names: Lydian #5  
 Intervallic Construction: 1, 2, 3, #4, #5, 6, 7



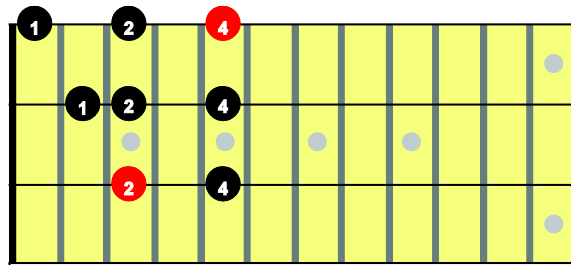
### 4 – C Lydian Dominant Scale

Alternative Names: Lydian b7, Overtone, Mixolydian #11, Mixolydian #4  
 Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,#4,5,6,b7



### 5 – C Mixolydian b13

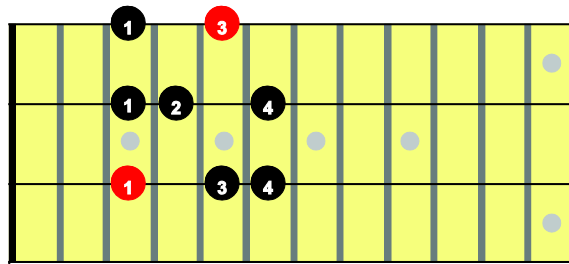
Alternative Names: Mixolydian b6, Hindu  
 Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,5b6,b7



## 6 – C Aeolian b5

Alternative Names: Semilocrian, Locrian #2, Half Diminished

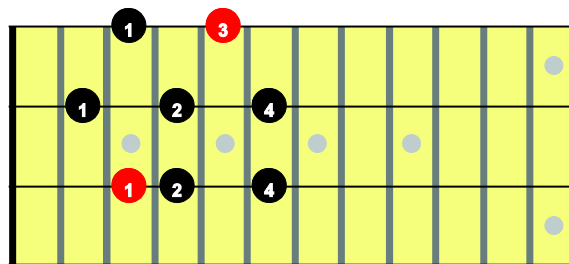
Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,4,b5,b6,b7



## 7 – C Superlocrian Scale

Alternative Names: Locrian b4, Diminished Whole Tone, Altered

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,b4,b5,b6,b7





## 5 - Other Scales

### Harmonic Major Scale

Alternative Names: Ionian b6, Ionian b13

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,3,4,5,b6,7

### Hungarian Minor Scale

Alternative Names: Hungarian Gypsy Scale, Harmonic Minor #4, Double Harmonic Minor

Intervallic Construction: 1,2,b3,#4,5,b6,7

## Enigmatic Scale

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: Ascent: 1,b2,3,#4,#5,#6,7, Descent: 8,7,#6,#5,4,3,b2,1

Ascending

Descending

## Neapolitan Major Scale

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1,b2,b3,4,5,6,7

## Neapolitan Minor Scale

Alternative Names:

Intervallic Construction: 1, b2, b3, 4, 5, b6, 7

## Double Harmonic Scale

Alternative Names: Byzantine, Spanish Gypsy, Minor Gypsy

Intervallic Construction: 1, b2, 3, 4, 5, b6, 7