

What Makes the Melodic Minor Scale So ... Melodic?

By Pete Weise
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Ex. 1

C Melodic Minor Scale

1 2 $\flat 3$ 4 5 6 7 8

Ex. 2

T
A
B

8 10 11 8 10 7 9 10 7 8 10 8 10 7 8 7 10 8 10 8 7 10 9 7 10 8 11 10 8

T
A
B

8 5 6 8 5 7 9 5 7 8 6 8 5 7 8 7 5 8 6 8 7 5 4 7 5 8 6 5 8

T
A
B

3 5 6 3 5 7 4 5 7 4 6 8 5 7 8 7 5 8 6 4 7 5 4 7 5 3 6 5 3

T
A
B

15 12 13 15 12 14 12 13 15 16 13 15 17 19 20 19 17 15 13 16 15 13 12 14 12 15 13 12 15

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Ex. 3

Musical notation for the first system of Ex. 3, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 6, 8, 10, 12, 2, 3, 5, 6.

Musical notation for the second system of Ex. 3, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13.

Musical notation for the third system of Ex. 3, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 8, 10, 12, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8.

Musical notation for the fourth system of Ex. 3, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16.

Musical notation for the fifth system of Ex. 3, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 11, 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11.

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Ex. 4

Musical notation for the first system of Ex. 4, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 12, 1, 3, 5.

Musical notation for the second system of Ex. 4, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 10, 12.

Musical notation for the third system of Ex. 4, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 8, 10, 12, 1, 3, 4, 6, 8.

Musical notation for the fourth system of Ex. 4, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a guitar TAB staff with fret numbers 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15.

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Ex. 5

Cm(maj7) Dm7 Ebmaj7#5 F7 G7 Am7b5 Bm7b5 Cm(maj7)

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|
| T | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 4 |
| A | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 4 |
| B | 3 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 5 |
| | | | 8 | 10 | 12 | 2 | | 3 |

Cm(maj7) Dm7 Ebmaj7#5 F7 G7 Am7b5 Bm7b5 Cm(maj7)

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | 8 | 10 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| A | 8 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| B | 9 | 10 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| | 8 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 |

Ex. 6

Moderately slow ♩ = 85

etc.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| T | | | | | | | | |
| A | | | | | | | | |
| B | 8 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| | | | | 10 | 9 | 7 | 10 | |

etc.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| T | | | | | | | | |
| A | | | | | | | | |
| B | 11 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | 10 |
| | | | | | | | | 10 |
| | | | | | | | | 7 |

etc.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| T | | | | | | | | |
| A | | | | | | | | |
| B | 8 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 10 |
| | | | | | | | | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | 10 |
| | | | | | | | | 7 |

etc.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|---|----|---|----|----|---|----|
| T | | | | | | | | |
| A | | | | | | | | |
| B | 11 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | 10 |
| | | | | | | | | 10 |
| | | | | | | | | 7 |

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Ex. 7

Moderately slow ♩ = 70

The first system of music for Ex. 7 consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a guitar tablature staff. The melodic line starts with an ascending eighth-note triplet (C4, B3, A3), followed by another ascending eighth-note triplet (G3, F3, E3), then a descending eighth-note triplet (D3, C3, B2), and finally a descending eighth-note triplet (A2, G2, F2). The second measure of the system contains four descending eighth-note triplets: (E2, D2, C2), (B1, A1, G1), (F1, E1, D1), and (C1, B0, A0). The tablature below shows the fret numbers for each note: 8 11 10 10 8 11 10 8 7 10 10 9 7 10 10 8 8.

The second system of music for Ex. 7 consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a guitar tablature staff. The melodic line starts with an ascending eighth-note triplet (C4, B3, A3), followed by another ascending eighth-note triplet (G3, F3, E3), then a descending eighth-note triplet (D3, C3, B2), and finally a descending eighth-note triplet (A2, G2, F2). The second measure of the system contains four descending eighth-note triplets: (E2, D2, C2), (B1, A1, G1), (F1, E1, D1), and (C1, B0, A0). The tablature below shows the fret numbers for each note: 10 11 8 7 8 10 9 10 11 10 7 8 7 9 10 8 8 10.

The third system of music for Ex. 7 consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a guitar tablature staff. The melodic line starts with an ascending eighth-note triplet (C4, B3, A3), followed by another ascending eighth-note triplet (G3, F3, E3), then a descending eighth-note triplet (D3, C3, B2), and finally a descending eighth-note triplet (A2, G2, F2). The second measure of the system contains four descending eighth-note triplets: (E2, D2, C2), (B1, A1, G1), (F1, E1, D1), and (C1, B0, A0). The tablature below shows the fret numbers for each note: 8 11 10 7 8 10 11 10 9 10 7 8 10 9 7 8 10 7 10 8 10.

The fourth system of music for Ex. 7 consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a guitar tablature staff. The melodic line starts with an ascending eighth-note triplet (C4, B3, A3), followed by another ascending eighth-note triplet (G3, F3, E3), then a descending eighth-note triplet (D3, C3, B2), and finally a descending eighth-note triplet (A2, G2, F2). The second measure of the system contains four descending eighth-note triplets: (E2, D2, C2), (B1, A1, G1), (F1, E1, D1), and (C1, B0, A0). The tablature below shows the fret numbers for each note: 10 11 8 10 8 7 9 10 11 8 7 10 7 9 10 8 10 7 9 10 8 8.

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Ex. 8

Slow ♩ = 55

etc.

TAB
8 11 10 9 10 8 7 10 11 10 9 7 8 7 10 8 | 10 9 7 10 7 10 8 8 7 10 10 8 8 7

etc.

TAB
9 10 11 8 10 7 8 10 7 9 10 11 8 10 7 8 | 10 7 9 10 8 8 10 7 10 7 9 8 8 10

etc.

TAB
8 11 10 9 10 7 8 10 11 10 9 7 8 10 7 8 | 10 9 7 10 8 8 10 7 9 7 10 10 7 8 8 10

etc.

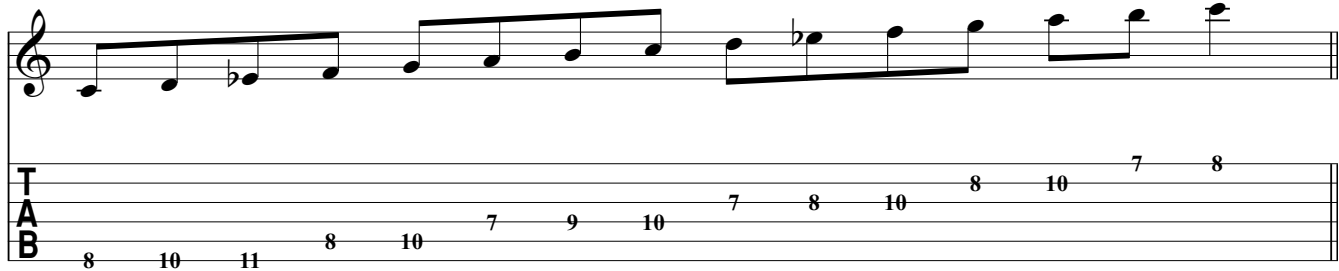
TAB
9 10 11 8 10 8 7 10 7 9 10 11 8 7 10 8 | 10 7 9 10 7 10 8 8 10 10 7 9 10 8 8 7

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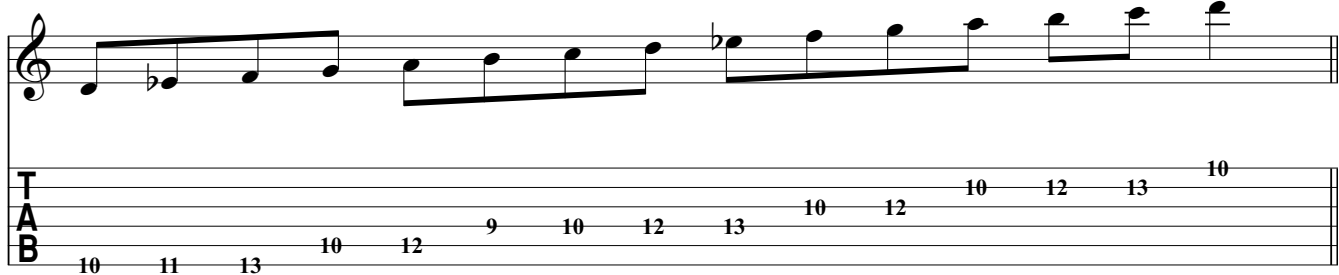
Ex. 9

C Melodic Minor



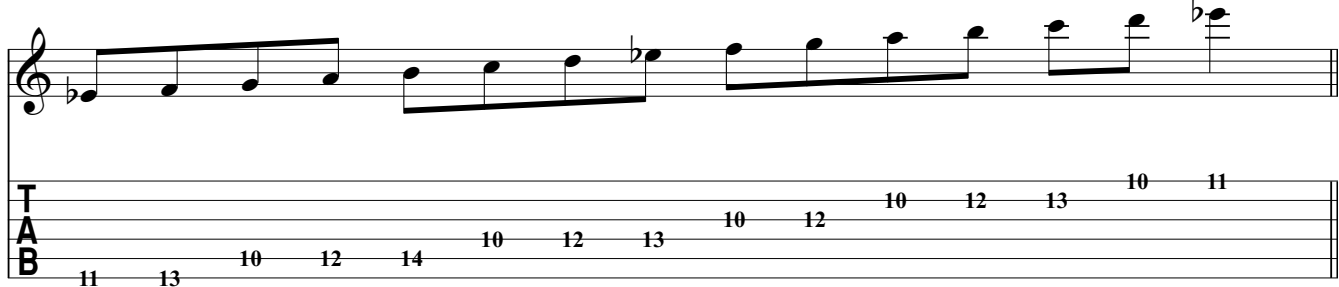
Musical notation for the C Melodic Minor scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are C4, D4, Eb4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 8, 10, 11, 8, 10, 7, 9, 10, 7, 8, 10, 8, 10, 7, 8.

D Dorian b2



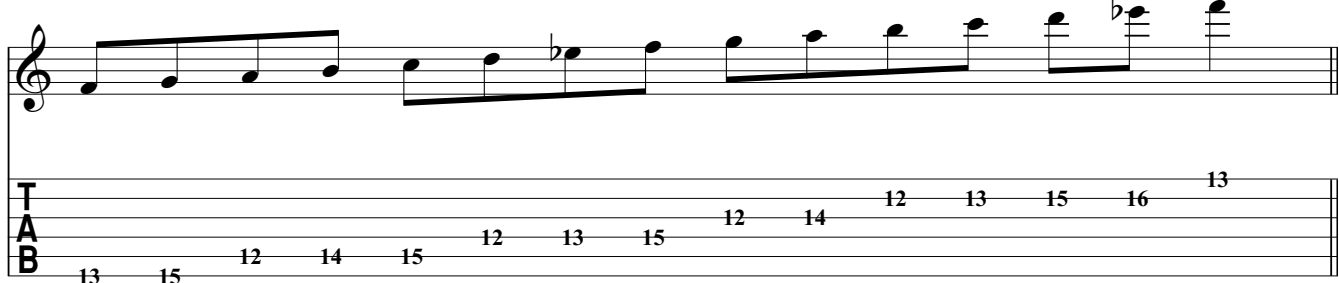
Musical notation for the D Dorian b2 scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The notes are D4, Eb4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 10, 11, 13, 10, 12, 9, 10, 12, 13, 10, 12, 10, 12, 13, 10.

Eb Lydian Augmented



Musical notation for the Eb Lydian Augmented scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The notes are Eb4, F4, G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 11, 13, 10, 12, 14, 10, 12, 13, 10, 12, 10, 12, 13, 10, 11.

F Lydian Dominant



Musical notation for the F Lydian Dominant scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are F4, G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5, F5. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 13, 15, 12, 14, 15, 12, 13, 15, 12, 14, 12, 13, 15, 16, 13.

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G Mixolydian $\flat 6$

Musical notation for G Mixolydian $\flat 6$ scale. The scale is shown in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, Fb, G. The guitar tablature below shows the fret numbers for each note: 3, 5, 2, 3, 5, 6, 3, 5, 2, 4, 5, 3, 4, 6, 3.

A Locrian #2

Musical notation for A Locrian $\sharp 2$ scale. The scale is shown in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are A, Bb, C, D, E, F, G, A. The guitar tablature below shows the fret numbers for each note: 5, 7, 8, 5, 6, 8, 5, 7, 9, 5, 7, 8, 6, 8, 5.

B Super Locrian

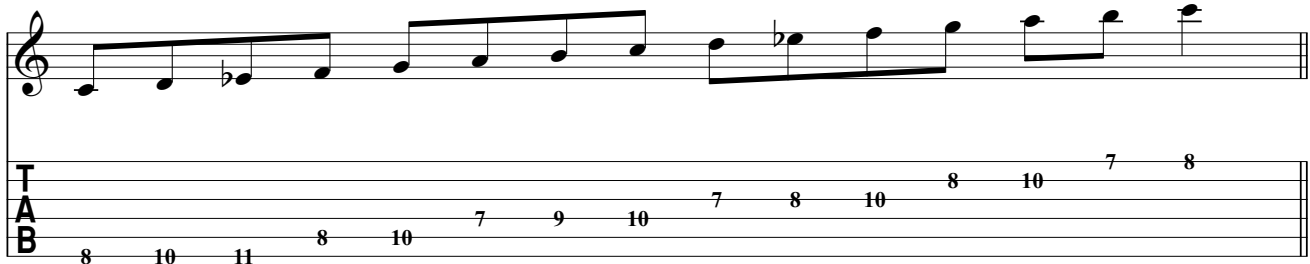
Musical notation for B Super Locrian scale. The scale is shown in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The notes are B, C, D, Eb, E, F, G, B. The guitar tablature below shows the fret numbers for each note: 7, 8, 10, 11, 8, 10, 7, 9, 10, 7, 8, 10, 8, 10, 7.

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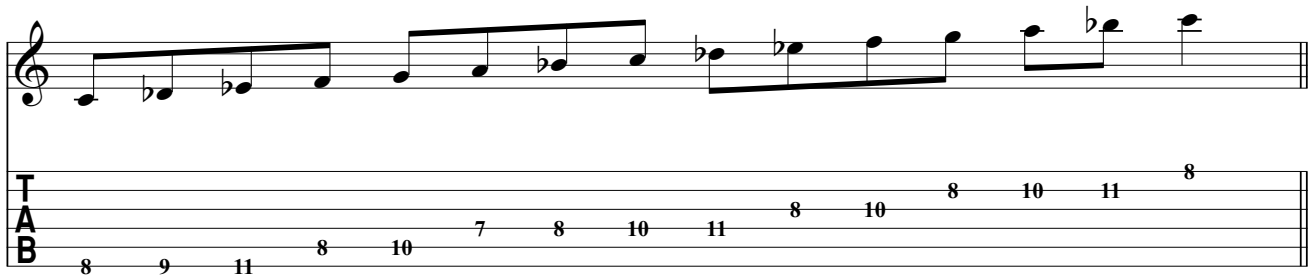
Ex. 10

C Melodic Minor



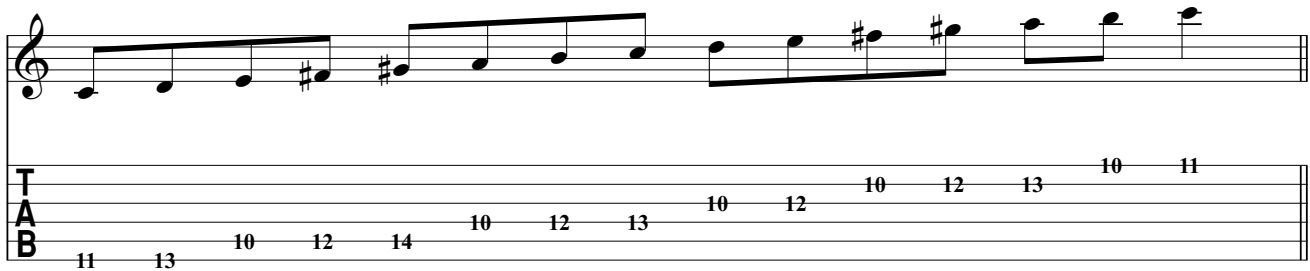
Musical notation for the C Melodic Minor scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are: C4, D4, Eb4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 8, 10, 11, 8, 10, 7, 9, 10, 7, 8, 10, 8, 10, 7, 8.

C Dorian $\flat 2$ (B \flat Melodic Minor)



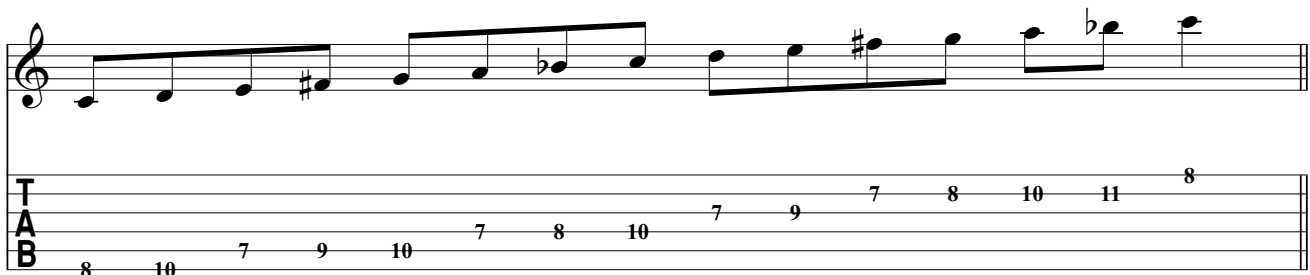
Musical notation for the C Dorian $\flat 2$ (B \flat Melodic Minor) scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The notes are: C4, D4, Eb4, Ebb4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 8, 9, 11, 8, 10, 7, 8, 10, 11, 8, 10, 8, 10, 11, 8.

C Lydian Augmented (A Melodic Minor)



Musical notation for the C Lydian Augmented (A Melodic Minor) scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C#4, C5. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 11, 13, 10, 12, 14, 10, 12, 13, 10, 12, 10, 12, 13, 10, 11.

C Lydian Dominant (G Melodic Minor)

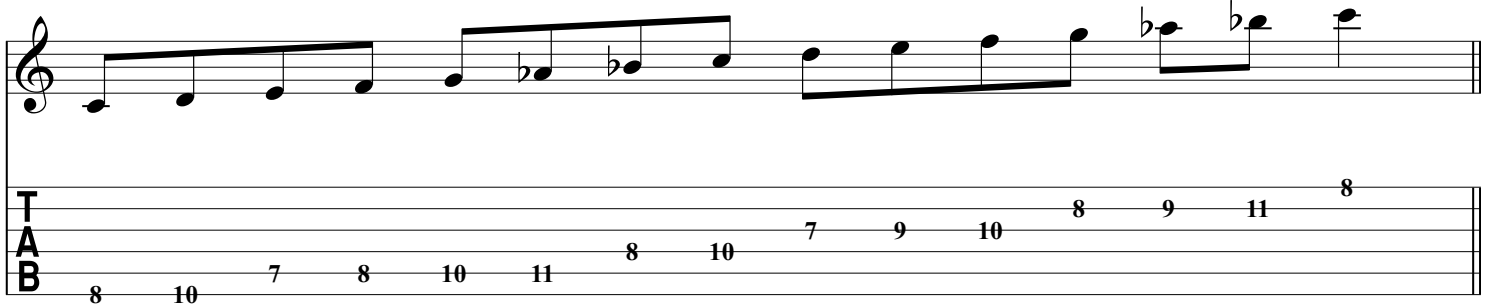


Musical notation for the C Lydian Dominant (G Melodic Minor) scale. The top staff shows the scale in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and one flat (Bb). The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5. The bottom staff shows the guitar tablature with fret numbers: 8, 10, 7, 9, 10, 7, 8, 10, 7, 9, 7, 8, 10, 11, 8.

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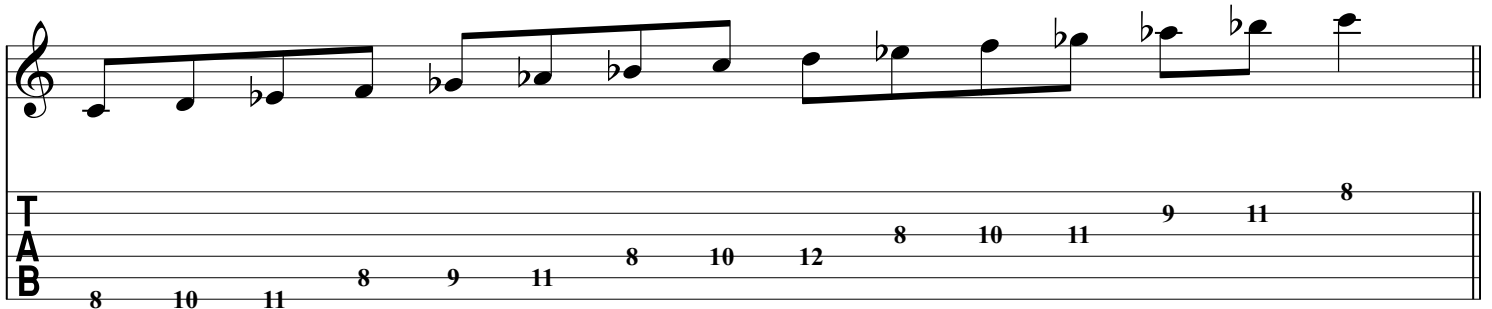
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C Mixolydian $\flat 6$ (F Melodic Minor)



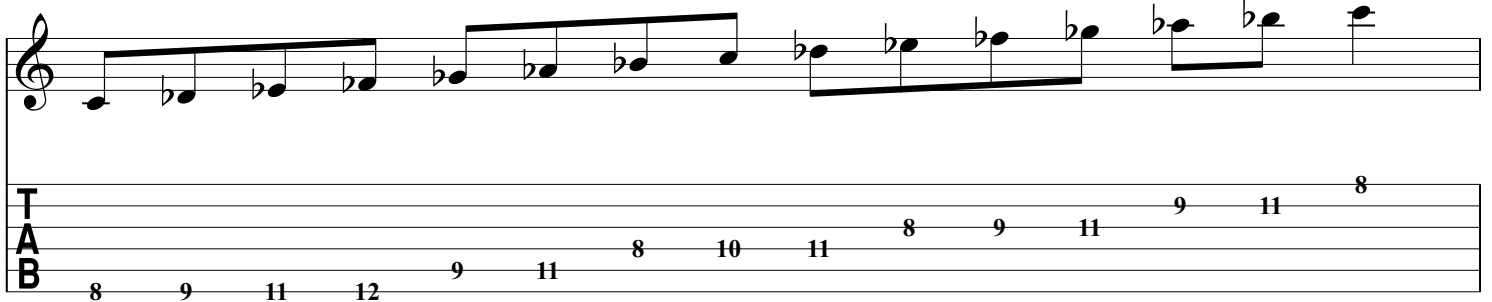
Musical notation for the C Mixolydian $\flat 6$ (F Melodic Minor) scale. The notation includes a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a guitar tablature staff below it. The tablature shows fret numbers for each string: 8, 10, 7, 8, 10, 11, 8, 10, 7, 9, 10, 8, 9, 11, 8.

C Locrian $\sharp 2$ ($E\flat$ Melodic Minor)



Musical notation for the C Locrian $\sharp 2$ ($E\flat$ Melodic Minor) scale. The notation includes a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a guitar tablature staff below it. The tablature shows fret numbers for each string: 8, 10, 11, 8, 9, 11, 8, 10, 12, 8, 10, 11, 9, 11, 8.

C Super Locrian ($D\flat$ Melodic Minor)



Musical notation for the C Super Locrian ($D\flat$ Melodic Minor) scale. The notation includes a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a guitar tablature staff below it. The tablature shows fret numbers for each string: 8, 9, 11, 12, 9, 11, 8, 10, 11, 8, 9, 11, 9, 11, 8.

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Ex. 13

Moderately ♩ = 105

G#/E F#/E G#/E F#/E G#/E F#/E

mf

Ex. 14

Fast ♩ = 183 (♩ = ♪♪)

F9#5 Fm7b5 F9#5 Fm7b5 F9#5 Fm7b5

mf

Ex. 15

Moderately ♩ = 101 (♩ = ♪♪)

Em7 Em9 A7#11 Dmaj9 B7#11 Em7

fade in *mf* *let ring - - - - - 4* *let ring - - 4* *let ring - - 4*

Ex. 16

Moderately ♩ = 101 (♩ = ♪♪)

Em7 Em9 A7b13 Dmaj9 B7b13 Em7

fade in *mf* *let ring - - 4* *let ring - - 4*

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Ex. 17

Moderately ♩ = 101 (♩ = ♩[♯])

Em7 Em9 Dmaj9 Em7

fade in *mf* *let ring --|* *let ring --|* *let ring ---|*

T
A
B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|