

Modal Pentatonics

Riff# - 190

G Form Pentatonic Scale

Date - 07/08

Today we'll be using the mixolydian modal pentatonic scale again but looking at it from a more familiar perspective. The G form or #3 position pentatonic scale is the most used of the box position pentatonic scales. We get most of our favorite pentatonic licks in the rock, blues and country genres from it. When we lay out the mixolydian modal pentatonic scale from the minor root of this scale position we get a very familiar looking scale with one small difference. Thus, we can use some of our favorite licks and phrases but still get our mixolydian modal sound as well.

We will be in D mixolydian today (D E F# G A B C) which is the fifth mode of the G major scale (G A B C **D** E F#). Our D mixolydian pentatonic scale will have the notes D F# G A C. Notice that if we lower the first string 14th fret note to the 13 fret and the third string 11th fret note down to the 10th fret we have our favorite minor pentatonic scale that we know so well. With reference point we can apply some common phrases from that more familiar scale. Measure one contains three note sequences (first and third brackets) and three note sequences with reversals (second and fourth brackets). Measure two contains some standard bending pentatonic phrases with the only difference being the half step bend on the 14th fret.

8^{va}

D mixolydian

T
A
B

Lh. fingers: 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 1 2 1 4 1 3 1 3 2 3 2 3 1 3 2

[Click for audio](#)

Player Profile of the Day: JOHN PETRUCCI

Stage Entrance: July 12th, 1967 (Kings Park, Long Island, New York)

Band: Dream Theater

Main Squeeze: Ernie Ball Music Man John Petrucci signature model

Style: progressive rock

Trademarks: fast and precise alternate picking

Prime Cut: "Erotomania"

Essential Album: *Scenes From A Memory* (1999)

Did You Know: Petrucci contributed two instrumental songs for the Sega Saturn game titled Digital Pinball: Necronomicon. Petrucci admits to being an avid Sega Saturn gamer and has stated that he never goes on tour without it.