

Phrygian

Music

Minor with a flattened second — the darkest common mode.

The third mode of the major scale: a natural minor with a flattened second, producing a semitone between the first two notes that gives it its distinctive tension.

DEGREE
3rd

FLATTENED
the 2nd

CHORDS
i – $\text{ii}^{\flat}$

- Formula: 1 $\text{ii}^{\flat}$ 3 4 5 $\text{vi}^{\flat}$ 7.
- E Phrygian is the white keys from E.
- The $\text{ii}^{\flat}$ chord is major — the Neapolitan sound.
- Darkest of the standard modes except Locrian.
- Phrygian dominant raises the 3rd: flamenco and metal.
- The descending $\text{ii}^{\flat}$ to i is its signature cadence.

LOOK FOR IT

Flamenco, Spanish guitar and a great deal of metal riffing.

Phrygian dominant — 1 $\text{ii}^{\flat}$ 3 4 5 $\text{vi}^{\flat}$ 7 — is the fifth mode of harmonic minor, and the true flamenco scale.