

The 7 Modes of the Harmonic minor scale

There are seven Harmonic minor scale modes, one starting on each of the seven notes of the scale.

A Harmonic minor scale played from the second note is called the Locrian Natural 6th. Therefore G Harmonic minor and A Locrian Natural 6th contain the same notes. If you compare Locrian Natural 6th with the major scale you will see that the Locrian Natural 6th's 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th notes are a semi-tone (1 fret) lower. This is often written as a formula: 1, b2, b3, 4, b5, 6, b7.

If you do the same starting on each consecutive note of the Harmonic minor scale, you get a formula for each mode.

Here are the names, formulas and fingerings for the Harmonic minor scale modes (transposed to G so you can hear the difference):

G Harmonic minor 1, 2, b3, 4, 5, b6, 7 	G Locrian Natural 6th 1, b2, b3, 4, b5, 6, b7 	G major #5 1, 2, 3, 4, #5, 6, 7
G Dorian #4 1, 2, b3, #4, 5, 6, b7 	G Phrygian major 3rd 1, b2, 3, 4, 5, b6, b7 	G Lydian #2 1, #2, 3, #4, 5, 6, 7
	G Super Locrian Diminished 1, b2, b3, b4, b5, b6, bb7 	