

Modal Interchange: Definitions

Borrowing: Use of a tone (or tones) outside of a scale or mode to highlight, suggest, or move to a scale, key, chord, or chord progression that contrasts the original scale or mode.

Flat Side: A description of the movement to keys with more flats in the scale or key signature. This would be *counter-clockwise* movement through the circle of fifths. Movement to the flat side produces a relaxing effect. *Sharp side* refers to the opposite.

Heptatonic Scale: A scale comprised of seven notes per octave.

Hexatonic Scale: A scale comprised of six notes per octave.

Key: A *system* of chord relationships that define a tonic chord as a point of stability. A key often implies a strong, ordered relationship among its chords, with the dominant-tonic relationship being the principal one.

Mixture: The combined use of elements of both the major and minor scale; these occur in close proximity. As a result, we speak of a *mixture* of the major and minor.

Modal Interchange: The interaction or movement between two parallel scales or modes, and the melodies, chords, chord progressions, and keys that this interaction makes available.

Mode: 1. A group of tones, often expressed as a scale, that is oriented toward a particular note as a point of stability. As a group of tones, modes are often collectively more stable than keys, given that a key requires an antagonistic relationship between the dominant and tonic. Many modes forego this antagonism in favor of more equanimity among its tones and harmonies. 2. The variation of a scale by shifting its tonal center to a different degree of the scale.

Modulation: Movement to a key with a different tonic that is typically longer than a phrase.

Parallel: Two scales or keys that share the same tonic. Example: G major and G minor.

Relative: Two scales that share the same key signature, such as F major and D minor. These are separate and distinct keys, however, since they have different tonics.

Tonicization: A temporary, transient movement to a chord that functions as a temporary tonic, usually through the use of an applied dominant.