

Understanding Scales and Modes

D Scale

Notation	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G	A
DAD	Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So	La	Ti	Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DAA												
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

The notes in any scale can extend above or below the staff.

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	A	B	C#	D	A	B	C#	D
DAD	So	La	Ti	Do	So	La	Ti	Do
	0	1	2	0	11	12	13	14
DAA								
	0	1	2	3	14	15	16	17

5 When the dulcimer is tuned to DAD, we sometimes call this the "Mixolydian" tuning. "Mixolydian" is the name of a "Mode" that is used to play many old fiddle tunes. Here is the D Mixolydian Scale.

	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C	D
DAD								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DAA	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

In the DAA tuning, the Mixolydian scale can be played on the bass string.