

The "Ionian" Scale

A scale is built using a sequence of half-steps and whole-steps. There are several commonly used scales, and the arrangement of the steps depends on the MODE of the scale. The most popular mode is the "Ionian Mode." Below is the D "Ionian" scale as it is played on each string when the dulcimer is tuned in DAD.

On The Melody String(s)

Dulcimer

DAD

DO Re Mi Fa So La Ti DO

0 1 2 3 4 5 6+ 7

On The Middle String

Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

On The Bass String

DO Re Mi Fa So La Ti DO

0 1 2 3 4 5 6+ 7

- The mode of each scale is established by the arrangement of whole-steps and half-steps. In the "Ionian Mode" the first note ("Key-note" or "home tone") of the scale is "do" in any key, and the scale proceeds:

Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So	La	Ti	Do
\	/ \	/ \	/ \	/ \	/ \	/ \	/
Whole	Whole	half	whole	whole	wholes	half	

- On the keyboard, when "DO" is "C" the scale will start on "C" and will be played entirely on the white keys.
- The dulcimer can be tuned to the "Ionian Mode" by tuning the bass string to "D" and all of the other strings to "A"