



## THE AEOLIAN $b5$ MODE AND THE MINOR 7 ( $b5$ ) CHORD



The above example is the **Aeolian  $b5$  Mode**. This is the 6th mode of the Jazz Minor Scale (Melodic Minor). This particular mode belongs to the D Melodic Minor Scale. Notice those two have the same set pitches, but just start on a different note. Play the scale on a keyboard and sing along until you can imagine its sound even when you are not playing. Take note how this mode looks like a Locrian Mode, but with an M2 scale degree. The intervallic scale

formula for the Aeolian b5 Scale is Root, M2, m3 P4, d5, m6, m7, Octave.



The above chord is a B minor 7 (b5) chord also called a Half-Diminished Chord. Play the chord on a keyboard and listen closely until you can internalize the sound. Note that this was the same chord we associated with the Locrian Mode. You can use either the Locrian Mode or the Aeolian b5 over this chord.

Another way to think about this scale is simply playing a Jazz Minor Scale (Melodic Minor) a minor 3rd higher than the root of the minor 7 (b5). Ex. Bm7(b5) = F Jazz Minor.

This mode can also be used as a choice over minor 7 chords for a more outside sound.

