

# Cheat Sheet - Obscuring the Tonic

Debussy used many different scales and compositional techniques to either hide the tonic or to add color to his music.

Modes

Ionian (Major)                      Dorian                      Phrygian

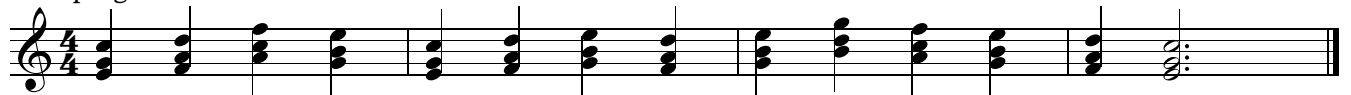


Lydian                      Mixolydian                      Aeolian (Minor)



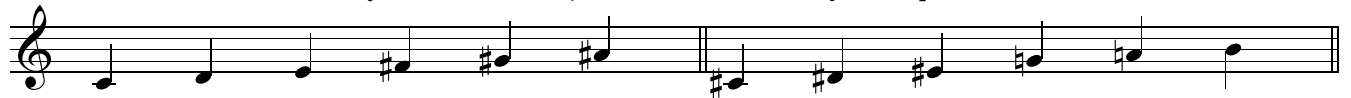
The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff contains three modes: Ionian (Major), Dorian, and Phrygian. The second staff contains three modes: Lydian, Mixolydian, and Aeolian (Minor). Each mode is represented by a sequence of notes on a five-line staff, starting from a common starting point.

Planing - a stream of chords (usually in the same inversion) that doesn't really work in terms of harmonic progression.



The image shows a single staff of musical notation in 4/4 time. It consists of a series of chords, each represented by a vertical line with a note head, indicating a stream of chords in the same inversion.

Whole Tone Scale - every interval is a Major 2nd. There are only 2 unique versions of this scale.



The image shows a single staff of musical notation for the Whole Tone Scale. It consists of a sequence of notes on a five-line staff, with every interval being a Major 2nd.

Note that the lack of anything but M2s makes it feel like there really isn't a tonic.

Octatonic Scale - made up of alternating Major and Minor 2nds. This scale is symmetrical, and there are only 3 unique versions. Again, there is no natural tonic here...



The image shows a single staff of musical notation for the Octatonic Scale. It consists of a sequence of notes on a five-line staff, with alternating Major and Minor 2nds.