

# Chromatic & Whole Tone

Music

The two symmetrical scales — every semitone, and every whole tone.

## Chromatic — 12 notes

- Every semitone in the octave
- No key, no tonic, no tension
- Used for passing notes and runs
- Guitar: one fret at a time
- Approach any target note by semitone

## Whole tone — 6 notes

- Every interval a whole tone: C D E F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  A $\sharp$
- Only two exist in all of music
- No perfect fifth anywhere in it
- Every triad in it is augmented
- Dreamlike, unmoored — Debussy's sound

### THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Both divide the octave evenly, so neither can establish a key. Use them to suspend tonality, not to build it.

The whole-tone scale fits an augmented or a 7 $\sharp$ 5 chord exactly.