STANDALONE INFOGRAPHIC I2

SCALE DEGREE STABILITY LADDER

Seven rungs from DO (most stable, bottom) to FA (most tense, top) — with the FA-TI tritone callout

↑ ASCENDING THE LADDER = RISING TENSION ↑

TENSION ↑

7	FA	**TENSION PEAK** Maximum dissonance. The subdominant — forms a tritone with TI. The strongest ache available in the key. *Blues, ache, modal color, maximum harmonic friction*
6	TI	**LEADING URGENCY** The leading tone — pulls upward toward DO with magnetic force. Tritone partner with FA. Together they define the strongest harmonic tension in the key. *Suspension build, dominant 7th chords, climactic phrases*
5	RE	**OPEN YEARNING** A question waiting for an answer. The supertonic — wants to fall back to DO or rise to MI. Creates forward motion and yearning. *Verse endings, rising phrases, forward motion, questions*
4	LA	**WARM BORDER** On the border between stable and tense. Can rest without full resolution. The emotional wildcard — soulful, bittersweet, expressive. *Soul phrases, emotional verses, bittersweet moments*
3	MI	**SWEET STABILITY** Warm and settled. The 5th partial of the natural overtone series — consonant with DO. Emotionally bright and singable. *Gentle arrivals, emotional warmth, classic melodic resting tone*
2	SO	**STRONG CONFIDENCE** The dominant — acoustically the closest partner to DO. Strong and stable but not fully home. Power and resolve without complete arrival. *Power phrases, pre-arrival resting points, masculine strength*
1	DO	**HOME BASE** The tonic — maximum stability. The key center. Every other note is defined by its relationship to DO. Landing here feels like arriving. *Phrase endings, chorus peaks, moments of resolution*

↓ RESOLUTION

THE TRITONE PAIR

FA ↕ TI

FA + TI = tritone (3 whole steps). Most dissonant interval in Western music. FA resolves down to MI; TI resolves up to DO.

↓ DESCENDING THE LADDER = RESOLUTION — START HERE ↓

Stability order is based on acoustic consonance with the tonic: DO(1)→SO(2)→MI(3)→LA(4)→RE(5)→TI(6)→FA(7)