

Leading Tone

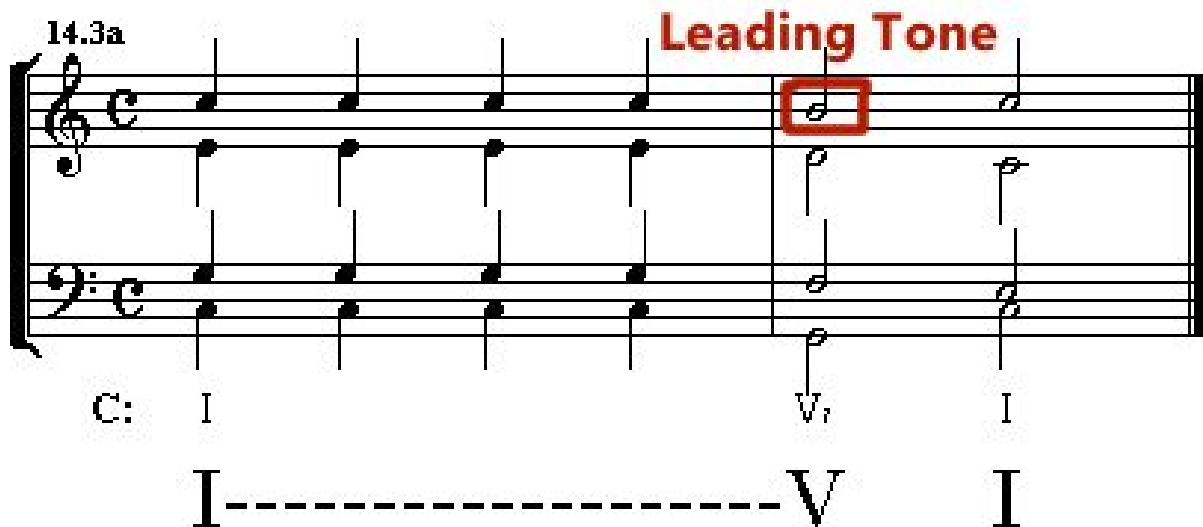
Typically, when people speak of the leading tone, they mean the seventh scale tone of the major scale, which has a strong affinity for and leads melodically to the tonic which is the first tone or last tone of the scale. In C major the tone C is the Tonic and the B is the leading tone.



The leading tone has an important function in a closing cadence

14.3a

Leading Tone



A musical staff in treble clef showing a closing cadence in C major. The notes are C, D, E, F, G, A, B, and C. The B note is highlighted with a red box, indicating it is the leading tone. Below the staff, the chord progression is labeled: C: I, I, I, I, V₇, I. A dashed line connects the I and V₇ chords, with the label 'I' below the line and 'V' below the line.

The leading tone also plays an important role in the harmonic minor scale.