

I Fretwalkers Signal Codex

A tonal relic of forbidden resonance, gathered by those who walk the frets in shadow. The following terms are known to initiate vibrational awakenings among the static-ridden and sound-starved.

I Harmonic Scar

A tonal wound left in the resonance field by intense feedback trauma. These scars can be traced like ancient fault lines in the sonic crust.

I Loop Dust

Residual sound matter gathered from broken playback sequences. Fretwalkers inhale it to recall memory-sound.

I Drone Mantle

A thick layering of tonal sustain—weighty, ever-present, like an aural fog clinging to reality's surface.

I The Dissonance Collapse

The cataclysmic event that shattered the sonic harmony of the world. Frequencies fell out of alignment. Time splintered. Languages failed. Music became survival.

I Neurophonic Gate

A portal-like phenomenon triggered by exact tone-mind harmonics. Appears as a glowing porthole in reality. Only specific feedback loops and neural implant alignments can activate it. Crossing over is said to alter the soul's tuning forever.

I Signal Harmonic Guard (S.H.G.)

An underground resistance group that protects, archives, and preserves harmonic truth from corrupted transmissions. An ancient order of tonal protectors tasked with preserving balance in the resonance fields. Most are long vanished. Some still tune the world in secret.

I Fretwalker

One who travels the dead resonance lines, decoding lost harmonies and awakening silenced strings.

Dual Mixtura Devices

Two interlinked guitar modules fused from Old World tech—each containing remnants of opposing tonal forces. When played together, they can alter magnetic field resonance and reality perception. Wielded only by masters.

Echo-Filtration Unit (EFU)

In the dust-choked zones where signal and smoke entwine, survival often depends on one device: a breathing apparatus designed for those who walk the ruined soundscapes. It filters corrupted air and low-frequency particles that decay the lungs and mind.

The Auralith

An ancient sound-based intelligence, semi-sentient and vast, buried beneath strata of collapsed time. It resonates memory, frequency, and encoded sorrow. Some believe it to be a living archive; others, a god built from feedback and decay. An ancient sentient soundcore that records and emits signal memory. Believed to be the source of the Original Chord.

The Voice of Virelia

A legendary device—part signal tower, part sonic relic—once used to broadcast harmonic stabilizers to outer zones. Said to be a modified 1960s Leslie speaker, it now distorts memories more than it preserves them.

Shadow Phase

The name for nightfall in Fretwalkers lore. It is not merely darkness, but a sonic stillness—when tonal predators roam, and transmissions become erratic. Many refuse to walk during Shadow Phase... unless they must.

Auditis

A genetically enhanced auditory sensitivity, often developed through exposure to rare frequencies. Sometimes comes at the cost of other senses.

Tremular Movement

A visual distortion caused by extreme vibrational memory imprinting. Sometimes seen in recordings of The Old World. Faces tremble. Voices shimmer. Reality is unsure. A visual or sonic vibration that seems to echo a deeper memory, often associated with lost identity or prior selves.

Silent Score

A theoretical harmonic structure Zira believes may recalibrate the world's frequency. No one has heard it—yet. Zira Tenbris's forbidden research—an attempt to transcribe the unplayable, the lost score beneath the world's static hum. It drives some mad. Others swear it whispers the truth of the Collapse.

Face Drift

A condition in which memory and identity blur; faces appear familiar but cannot be placed. Common in Echo-Drifters.

Feedback Communion

The ritual use of looping feedback tones to summon buried signal traces or lost transmissions.

Echo Code

A mythical tonal pattern believed to restore harmony. It's neither chord nor note, but something deeper—resonant truth hidden in corrupted waveforms. Fretwalkers seek it across every ruined zone. A cryptic harmonic sequence that may hold the key to restoring balance. Soloman Rhoke believes it lies buried in static.

Auditory Scrape

The ambient scarring left behind when corrupted sound passes through raw matter. Recognized by a metallic aftertaste.

Sonic Binders

Coiled wire relics used by Fretwalkers to secure instruments, signal transmitters, or even fractured limbs.

Kilauean Dust

Fine sediment from the island's fumaroles. Said to heighten resonance perception but corrodes lungs and voice.

Tuning Fog

A low-lying atmospheric distortion that alters pitch perception. Walkers tune their instruments by feel, not sound.

The Old Signal

A long-lost harmonic transmission believed to have originated before the Collapse. Still faintly detectable by some.

Echo Relay Node

Abandoned comm towers reactivated by Sid Ankiras to bounce harmonic signals across zones.

Dead Link

A Fretwalker term for someone who's lost their signal. A disconnected soul. Untraceable, unstable. Often lost to silence or corrupted frequencies.

Resonant Memory

Emotional or sensory flashbacks triggered by frequencies tied to one's past. Often involuntary.

Tone-Wrecked

A psychological condition among Fretwalkers exposed to corrupted signals too long. Symptoms: auditory hallucinations, dissonant muscle memory, and a compulsive need to re-tune everything—including people.

Feedback Surge

A rare spike in resonance used to cleanse or destroy. Dangerous, yet sacred when controlled.

Static Choir

The chorus of forgotten notes embedded in interference. Some say it's the voice of lost compositions trying to return.

Rhythm Ghosts

Phantom pulses that haunt abandoned tempo grids. Only audible to those who've broken metronome law.

Chord Vault

An encrypted place in soundspace where forbidden progressions are sealed away. Some Fretwalkers seek to unlock them by instinct alone.

Interval Rift

A dissonant fissure that opens when two unstable tones are played in proximity. Can fracture perception or allow passage.

Decay Bloom

When a sound fades so slowly it blossoms new harmonic artifacts in its death spiral.

The Hollow Tone

A sonic form born from absence. It is the whisper between feedback, often carried by the wind of dead amps.

Modwave Drift

A slow-motion shift in modulation patterns that reveals deeper waveforms—used to cloak tonal changes in plain sound.

Phantom Root

The imagined center of a chord heard only by those who no longer need theory—felt, not known.

Gain Blood

The raw emotional current that flows when distortion aligns with purpose.

Tension Bloom

The moment before a resolve that never comes. Suspense eternal. Often found in post-collapse harmonies.

Sync Lag

The ghost delay between players once connected. In post-Dissonance groups, this lag becomes a form of time travel.

Oscillate Fade

A ritual reduction of modulation until only intention remains.

Reverb Ash

What remains when a massive sound burns out. The air still shimmers. Fretwalkers sift this ash for clues.

Frequency Shard

A splinter of raw tone that can cut through silence or stitch broken signals.

Temporal Chord Shift

An act of harmonic displacement where one progression replaces another across parallel tonalities.

Resonance Lock

A rare moment when player and environment become sonically fused—dangerous in high decay zones.

Pulse Sigil

A rhythmic pattern encoded with identity. Each Fretwalker has their own, buried in their attack.

Auditis (Enhanced)

A rare mutation of auditory sense among scavengers. Hyper-perception of tone, timbre, and frequency... but at a cost. Often results in damage to speech centers or emotional overload. Some with Auditis become mute, others prophets.

The Hollow Tone

Darren Voss's sound—pulled from ancient feedback, warped amps, and dust-heavy silence. It breaks things open. It bends echo to will.

Corrupted Files

Digital remnants of the Old World—fragmented, glitching, sometimes sentient. Often contain lost performances, half-voices, or images of people who no longer exist. They are addictive to watch... and dangerous.

Loop Scars

The marks left behind after extended exposure to corrupted loop fields. Found on the arms, temples, and ears of those who survived early tone experiments. Each one tells a musical memory... or a mistake.