

HARMONY 2

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HARMONY 2

SECONDARY DOMINANTS

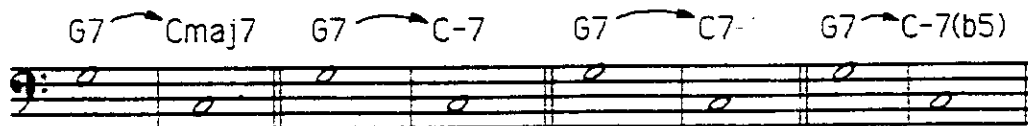
The strongest characteristic of dominant resolution is root motion down a perfect fifth. The "**primary dominant**" in the key of C is G7:



The "**secondary dominants**" in the key of C are:



A dominant chord's resolution may be to ANY quality of chord a perfect fifth lower except a diminished 7th chord:



The chord of resolution could therefore be any diatonic chord in a major or minor key.

C: I^{ma}7 G: IV^{ma}7 Bb: II-7
 G7 → C^{ma}7 G7 → C^{ma}7 G7 → C-7

Ab: III-7 Eb: VI-7 F: V7
 G7 → C-7 G7 → C-7 G7 → C7

When a secondary dominant resolves as expected (down a perfect fifth to the diatonic chord), an arrow is used to show the resolution.

The analysis of a secondary dominant will reflect its expected diatonic chord of resolution:

Bb: V⁷/II II-7
 G7 → C-7

Ab: V⁷/III III-7
 G7 → C-7

G: V⁷/IV IV^{ma}7
 G7 → C^{ma}7

F: V⁷/V V7
 G7 → C7

Eb: V⁷/VI VI-7
 G7 → C-7

As with the analysis V⁷/I (V⁷ of I), the diagonal slash means "of". (V⁷/II = V⁷ of II.) Also note that it is not necessary to indicate the quality of the chord of resolution in the analysis symbol.

All secondary dominants have certain common characteristics.

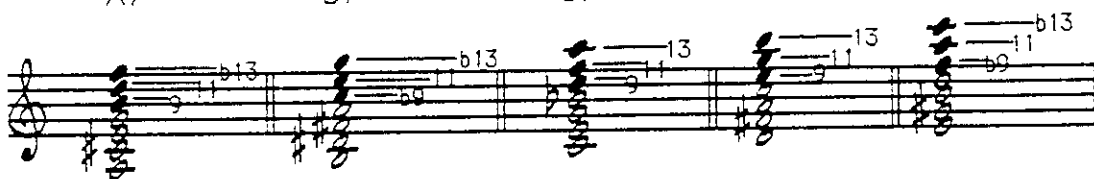
- 1) They are non-diatonic structures. (At least one of their chord tones is NOT in the key.)
- 2) They are expected to resolve to a diatonic chord a perfect fifth below.
- 3) They are all built upon a diatonic root.

This last characteristic (a diatonic root) is the reason for V7/VII in a major key being omitted from the category. The root a perfect fifth above VII-7(b5) is not diatonic.

AVAILABLE TENSIONS - SECONDARY DOMINANTS

Tensions on secondary dominant chords will reflect the diatonic function of the chord:

C: $\frac{V7}{II}$ $\frac{V7}{III}$ $\frac{V7}{IV}$ $\frac{V7}{V}$ $\frac{V7}{VI}$
 A7 B7 C7 D7 E7



The available tensions are those which meet the previous criteria: non-chord tones which are diatonic and which are a major ninth above chord tones. However, with dominant chords there are some important exceptions to the major 9th - above - a - chord tone rule.

- 1) The tension b9 IS available on dominant chords if it is diatonic, or if it is indicated in the chord symbol.
- 2) Tension b13 is available on dominant chords if it is diatonic.
- 3) Tensions b9 and #9 may coexist on the same dominant chord if either one (or both) is diatonic.

CHART OF AVAILABLE TENSIONS FOR SECONDARY DOMINANTS

Chord:	Available Tensions:	Optional Available Tensions:
V7/II	9, b13	#9 (diatonic) and b9*
V7/III	b9, b13	#9
V7/IV	9, 13	
V7/V	9, 13	#9 (diatonic) and b9*
V7/VI	b9, b13	#9

*Since 9 and #9 are both diatonic to these chords, either may be available to the chord, **but not together.** If #9 is available, b9 may also be used.

HARMONIC RHYTHM

The number of beats per chord within a progression is called "**harmonic rhythm**". In 4/4 time, the most common harmonic rhythms are 2, 4, and 8 beats:

Harmonic rhythm of 2 beats per chord:

C A-7 F G7(sus4) C A- F G7(sus4)

Harmonic rhythm of 4 beats per chord:

C6 A7 D-7 G7

Harmonic rhythm of 8 beats per chord:

D-7 G7 E-7 A7

In 3/4, the most common harmonic rhythms are 3 or 6 beats:

Cmaj7 Fmaj7 E-7 A7 D-7 G7 Cmaj7 G7(sus4)

D-7 G7 A-7 D7

Chords in a progression will receive strong or weak stress, depending upon their placement. This relative strength or stress will often determine the chord's function.

In any grouping of four pulsations, the first pulse is the strongest the last pulse is the weakest; the second pulse is weak; the third pulse is strong.

S W s w S W s w S etc.
 (S = very strong; s = strong; W = weak; w = very weak.)

This stress pattern holds true for harmonic rhythms of:

2 beats per chord:

C A- F G7(sus4) C A- F G7(sus4)
 S W s w S W s w

4 beats per chord:

C6 A7 D-7 G7
 S W S W

8 beats per chord:

D-7 G7 E-7 A7
 S W S W

3 or 6 beats per chord:

Cmaj7 Fmaj7 E-7 A7 D-7 G7 Cmaj7 G7(sus4)
 S W s w S W s w

D-7 G7 E-7 A7
 S W S W

Cadences most often occur from a weak beat to a stronger beat:

F Bb F Bb C7(sus4) F Bb

S (W) → s w S (W) → s w

Since the V7 chord is the primary cadence chord of the key, it is typically found on a weak stress point:

II-7 V7 III-7 VI-7 II-7 V7 I6
A-7 D7 B-7 E-7 A-7 D7 → G6

S (W) → s w S (W) → s w

Tonic chords are therefore usually found at stronger stress points.

This characteristic of dominant resolution from weak stress to stronger stress is also found when secondary dominants are present:

Imaj7 V7/III III-7 V7/VI VI-7 V7/V V7
Cmaj7 B7 → E-7 E7 → A-7 D7 → G7

S (W) → s (W) → S (W) → s (W) → S (W) → s (W)

I V7/IV IVmaj7 V7/II II-7 V7 I6
C C7 → Fmaj7 A7 → D-7 G7 → C6

→ S (W) → s (W) → S (W) → s W

Thus, in addition to the other characteristics pertaining to secondary dominants must be added the observation that they are usually placed on a weak beat.

EXTENDED DOMINANTS

Dominant chords which are on strong stress points will NOT sound as secondary dominants. The typical location for these chords is either the beginning of a phrase or the beginning of the second half of a phrase:

The image shows two musical staves in bass clef. The first staff contains the following chords: D7, G7, C7, Fmaj7, and A7. Arched arrows connect D7 to G7, G7 to C7, and C7 to Fmaj7. Below the staff, a circled 'S' has an arrow labeled 'W' pointing to the beginning of the D7 chord. The second staff contains the chords: D7, G7, C7, and Fmaj7. Arched arrows connect D7 to G7, G7 to C7, and C7 to Fmaj7. Below this staff, a circled 'S' has an arrow labeled 'W' pointing to the beginning of the D7 chord.

Such chords are "**extended dominants**" and have an expectation to resolve down a perfect fifth to another extended dominant or any diatonic chord.

A musical staff in bass clef showing a sequence of four chords: D7, G7, C7, and F7. Arched arrows connect each chord to the next, indicating a descending perfect fifth resolution.

Once the extended dominant pattern starts, there is an expectation for it to continue, and eventually end with a diatonic resolution:

A musical staff in bass clef showing a sequence of five chords: D7, G7, C7, F7, and Bbmaj7. Arched arrows connect each chord to the next, illustrating the continuation of the extended dominant pattern.

Therefore, extended dominants have one of two characteristics different than secondary dominants.

- 1) Extended dominants are either found on a strong stress or;
- 2) they are continuations of an extended dominant pattern which starts with an extended dominant.

The analysis for extended dominant motion is an arrow to the resolution down a perfect fifth. In order to locate the extended dominants' relation to the key, the scale degree of the root of the first extended dominant is included in parenthesis using its Roman numeral (without chord quality):

Each extended dominant in a series can be seen (and heard) as being temporarily in a key other than the eventual diatonic key:

Thus, each of the extended dominants will be V7/V in a "key of the moment," except, usually the final dominant, if it is weakly stressed, will sound like the primary dominant. Additionally, to some experienced listeners, the chord which is actually functioning as V7/V (the C7 above) sounds like V7/V and not an extended dominant; its analysis as either an extended dominant or as V7/V is correct (since all extended dominants sound like V7/V).

Since all extended dominants function as V7/V in their key of the moment or the primary key, their available tensions are 9 and 13; the same as V7/V.

DECEPTIVE RESOLUTION

Another commonly found trait of extended dominants can be demonstrated if the previous example is continued with a secondary dominant occurring on a very weak stress point:

(III) D7 G7 C7 F7 I maj7 V7/III
A7

S W s w S W s (W)

In context the A7 meets all the criteria for a secondary dominant. Its placement is weakly stressed and it has potential for a resolution to a strong stressed beat. Taken out of context however, it is the first in a series of dominant motion following the cycle of fifths: A7 D7 G7 C7 F7.

Therefore, this chord sounds like a secondary dominant, but resolves as an extended dominant. This is a commonly found example of "**deceptive resolution**", and requires an appropriate analysis.

Chords are first analyzed for their sound within the progression:

(III) D7 G7 C7 F7 I maj7 V7/III
A7

Any deceptive resolution is parenthesized:

(III) D7 G7 C7 F7 I maj7 (V7/III)
A7

(A7 does not resolve as V7/III to D-7.)

Then, justification for the chord's actual resolution is added. In the case of A7, the resolution is down a perfect fifth (not as V7/III, but as V7 of the extended dominant D7), and therefore, an arrow will show that:



In summary: *De Novo* *Acquiesce* *una* *fig.* *x* *17*
Sono SEMPRE CORRETTI, SOLO CHE

punti debole
 Tensioni
 DIATONICHE

- 1) Secondary dominants are dominant chords a perfect fifth above a diatonic chord. Their placement is on a relatively weak stress point with the chord of resolution on a stronger stress.
- 2) Secondary dominants are analyzed as V7 of the diatonic chord a perfect fifth below. If a secondary dominant resolves deceptively, the analysis is placed in parenthesis, and an added analysis is used to justify its actual resolution. The available tensions will reflect the secondary dominant chord's expected resolution, not its actual resolution.

ESTESE
 PUNTI FORTI
 SERIE
 ALTERAZIONI
 PROPRIE

- 3) Extended dominants are dominant chords which are placed at a strong stress point, or within a pattern of dominant resolution following the cycle of fifths with an extended dominant as the starting point for the pattern. The available tensions are 9 and 13 for extended dominants.
- 4) Extended dominants are analyzed with an arrow, since their expectation is to resolve down a perfect fifth. The first extended dominant of the pattern has the added analysis of its root's Roman numeral in parenthesis.

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MELODIC ANALYSIS

Almost all music has one common trait: repetition. The repeating of musical ideas will be one focus of the melodic analysis process. Before describing the process, it is necessary to understand the ways in which melodic repetition occurs.

Most song forms (as described in Arranging) contain a certain amount of phrase repetition. In AABA form, three of the four phrases in the tune are the same or so similar that they can be said to be the same.

AABA

The musical score illustrates an AABA form. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff is the melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The second staff is the bass line in bass clef, also in 4/4 time. The first two measures of the bass line are marked '1.' and the next two measures are marked '2.', indicating a first and second ending. The remaining four staves show the continuation of the melody and bass line, with the melody repeating the first phrase three times and the bass line providing accompaniment.

Some songs contain a repeated phrase which is only slightly different than the original phrase.

A A B A'

The form for the above song is AABA' (AABA "prime"). The last phrase is so similar to the first two phrases that it can be identified as "A", even though it is not exactly the same.

Phrase repetition will be found in almost all common song forms: AABA, ABAC, ABA, ABCA, ABABC, etc. The form AB is most often repeated over and over resulting in the form ABABABAB etc. Twelve-measure blues is repeated to produce the form AAAAA etc.

Melodic repetition occurs within phrases. Most phrases can be broken down into three areas:

- 1) Antecedent - the first half of the phrase which requires a:
- 2) Consequent - the second half of the phrase which may end with a:
- 3) Melodic cadence - movement to a point of rest.

An exception to phrase repetition is found in "through-composed" songs. Through-composed songs achieve unity through motivic repetition and manipulation rather than phrase repetition. A "motif" is a musical fragment. Most motifs are shorter than 2 measures in length. Melodic motifs may repeat themselves either exactly or in disguised fashion:

The musical score consists of eight staves of music, each containing several measures. The measures are numbered 1 through 34. The notation includes various rhythmic values, accidentals, and melodic lines. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 4/4. The measures are numbered 1 through 34, with some measures containing a '3' indicating a triplet.

Motifs may be manipulated using any of the following methods or combinations:

- 1) Transposition (Motif moved to another pitch level. This is also known as sequence.)



- 2) Inversion (Motif is presented upside down.)



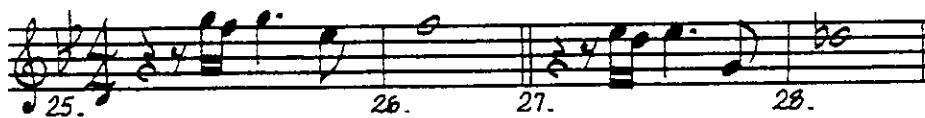
- 3) Retrograde (Motif is presented backwards.)



- 4) Rhythmic variation



- 5) Melodic interval variation



MELODIC ANALYSIS PROCEDURES

The first step in the melodic analysis process is to determine the song form. Phrases which repeat exactly will be analyzed exactly.

AABA'

The musical score consists of six staves of music in a single system, with measure numbers 1 through 34 indicated below the notes. Chord annotations are placed above the staves. The first staff (measures 1-5) has chords Ebmaj7, Bbmaj7, Ebmaj7, Bbmaj7, C-7, and F7. The second staff (measures 6-16) has chords Bbmaj7, G7(*9), C-7, F7, Bbmaj7, C-7, F7, and Bb. The third staff (measures 17-20) has chords Ebmaj7, Eb-6, Bbmaj7, Ebmaj7, Eb-6, and Bb. The fourth staff (measures 21-24) has chords G7, C7, D7, G7, C7, and F7. The fifth staff (measures 25-29) has chords G-7, D-7, Ebmaj7, Bbmaj7, C-7, and F7. The sixth staff (measures 30-34) has chords Bbmaj7, G7(*9), C-7, F7, D-7, G7, C-7, F7, and Bb. A repeat sign is present between measures 8 and 15.

Motifs should be enclosed in brackets ([]).

The next step in the analysis process is the identification of individual note relationships to each other and to the harmonies. Each notes will be either:

- 1) an available pitch
 - (a) a chord tone or
 - (b) an available tension.
- 2) an approach note.

An "**approach note**" is a note which is a quarter note or less in duration and which moves by step to a chord tone or available tension. Approach notes are found in many configurations.

Passing tones are approach notes which move by step between two chord tones, between two available tensions, or between a chord tone and tension (or a tension and chord tone).

Musical notation showing four measures of a D-7 chord progression. Each measure contains a D-7 chord with a passing tone (S) between the 5th and b3rd. The notes and their harmonic relationships are: 5, S, b3, 5; 11, S, 9, 11; b7, S, 9, b7; 9, S, b7, 9.

If the passing tone is diatonic to the key of the moment, it is analyzed as a "scale" approach note ("S").

The pitches preceding the passing tone and following it are identified with the number representing their harmonic relationship to the chord. In addition, the approach note is identified with its scale relationship to the chord:

Musical notation showing four measures of a D-7 chord progression. Each measure contains a D-7 chord with a passing tone (S) between the 5th and b3rd. The notes and their harmonic relationships are: 5, S4, b3, 5; 11, Sb3, 9, 11; b7, S1, 9, b7; 9, S1, b7, 9.

Passing tones may also be chromatic. Unlike scale passing tones, they will most often not be diatonic to the key of the moment. Chromatic passing tones are analyzed as "Ch" (for chromatic):

D-7 G7

5 CH 11 5 13 CH 5 1

Approach note patterns may start during one chord but resolve to a note on another chord:

D-7 G7 C

b7 5 b3 CH → 1 b7 5 CH → 3 CH → 3

ALL APPROACH NOTES RESOLVE TO A NOTE AND CHORD OF RESOLUTION. They are analyzed relative to the chord of resolution.

C A7 D-7 G7 C

1 S2 → 1 Sb7 b13 11 Sb7 → 13 13 S4 → 5
(OR: 1 S2 → 1 b7 Sb3 → 11 b7 13 S6 b7 5)

An **unprepared approach note**, unlike a passing tone, has NO preparatory pitch but, like all approach note patterns, it must resolve. Unprepared approach notes are either preceded by a rest, leaped into, or a rhythmically repeated pitch:

C A7 D-7 G7

Sb3 9 (OR: 1 9) 5 S6 5 S6 13 (OR: 5 9 5 13 13)

Neighbor tones are upper or lower movement from an available pitch and back to the same pitch (either by scale step or chromatic step):

G7

9 S3 9 9 1 CH 1 1
(OR: 9 3 9 9 1 CH 1 1)

In addition to the above approach note patterns which involve single melodic pitches, there are two easily recognizable multiple approach note patterns. **ALL APPROACH NOTES (SINGLE OR MULTIPLE) MAY TOTAL ONLY ONE BEAT.**

The **double chromatic approach** is consecutive chromatic motion in the same direction to a note of resolution:

D-7 G7 Cmaj7 C6

9 CH CH 1 CH CH 7 CH CH 1
(OR: 9 b3 CH 1 9 CH 7 CH 7 1)

Note that the analysis for any form of chromatic approach notes(s) is Ch.

The other consecutive approach note pattern is the **indirect resolution**. Two approach notes appear, one above the note of resolution, and one below, and then the resolution occurs:

D-7 G7 Cmaj7

As with all approach notes, each note of the indirect resolution pattern is analyzed as S or Ch:

D-7 G7 Cmaj7

S4S2 3 CH CH 5
(OR: b7 5 3 b9 CH 5)

SPECIAL MELODIC ANALYSIS SITUATIONS

There are possible rhythmic alterations to melodies which affect the melodic analysis. (See "Arranging I".)

An **anticipation** is seen as a melody pitch occurring a 1/2 beat prior to a stressed beat (1 or 3). It may be tied into the beat it anticipates or there may be a rest on the beat:

ANTICIPATIONS ARE ANALYZED WITH REGARD TO THE CHORD THEY ANTICIPATE AND THE CHORD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO ANTICIPATE ALSO:

Some styles of rock music and jazz incorporate **double time feel** notation. Anticipations in double time feel will appear as sixteenth notes:

The opposite of an anticipation is a **delayed attack**. Here the rhythmic alteration is seen a 1/2 beat after the stressed beat (1 or 3)

Infrequently, anticipations and delayed attacks may occur by a whole beat. This is most often seen in jazz compositions and arrangements:

The first staff shows a melodic line in Eb major. The first measure has a whole note chord Eb6. The second measure has a half note chord ANT. The third measure has a whole note chord Bb7(sus4). The notes are: Eb (5), F (5), G (5), Ab (5), Bb (5), C (1). The second staff shows a melodic line in Eb major. The first measure has a whole note chord Bb7. The second measure has a whole note chord Eb7. The notes are: Eb (1), F (1), G (1), Ab (1), Bb (1), C (1).

A **melodic suspension** is a melody pitch which is tied into a different chord change for a beat or less. Melodic suspensions are analyzed as the chord tone or tension of the chord from which it is suspended:

The staff shows a melodic line in D major. The chords are D, E7, A7, F#-7, E-7, and A7. The notes are: D (1), E (1), F# (1), G# (1), A (1), B (1), C# (1), D (1). The fingerings are: 1, 3 6 b7 5, S4 3, 11, 11 3, 11 3. An alternative fingering is shown in parentheses: (or: 1, 1 3 S4 5, S4 3, 11, 11 3).

The melodic analysis procedure in summary:

- 1) Note the song form.
- 2) Bracket each motif and include any melodic cadences.
- 3) Analyze each note in the motif as either an available note from the chord structure or as an approach note to an available pitch. (S = scale approach; Ch = chromatic approach.)
- 4) Analyze repeated motifs with a repeated analysis.

HARMONIC CONTINUITY - VOICE LEADING

Chords presented so far have been in "close" position. All the chord tones are as close as possible to adjacent chord tones:

Cmaj7 D-7 E-7 Fmaj7 A-7 G7 Cmaj7

Chords have been seen in root position as well as inverted:

Cmaj7 A7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-6 Cmaj7

Note that the top voice defines the required movement of the chord tones beneath it. If the top voice were not the controlling factor, the example could be "voice led." Any pitch (except the roots) from a chord structure would move to the nearest chord tone of the subsequent chord following an order of preference:

- 1) common tone (no movement)
- 2) half-step movement
- 3) whole-step movement
- 4) movement in thirds (major or minor)

Cmaj7 A7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-6 Cmaj7

When a harmonic progression is voice led (as above), "**harmonic continuity**" is said to be in effect. A progression can also be demonstrated by voice leading only the essential pitches of each chord. The essential chord tones are the root, third (or fourth on sus4 chords), and seventh (or sixth on 6th chords); these pitches make each chord sound major versus minor, and the major or minor seventh further defines the chordal sound.

Cmaj7 A7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-6 Cmaj7

Generally, the position for the starting chord structure is determined by sound; the best location for the chord tones (3rd and 7th) is within the following range:

The roots of the chords will be the foundation for the essential chord tones which are voice led following the previous list of linear intervallic motion. (Common tone; chromatic; whole step; thirds.)

Cmaj7 D7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-7 D-7 Bb7 C6

Considering the list of preferential motion, chords progressing with unchanged root motion (chords with common roots) will use common tone and/or stepwise voice leading of the essential chord tones:

Cmaj7 D7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-7 D-7 Bb7 C6

PARALLEL

The diagram shows a sequence of five chords: Cmaj7, D7, D-7, G7, F#-7(b5), F-7, D-7, Bb7, and C6. The notation is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). Brackets are drawn under the notes in the bass clef to show that the notes move in parallel motion (same intervallic relationship) between adjacent chords. For example, the root notes in the bass clef move from C to D, D to E, E to F#, F to G, and G to A, all by a whole step.

(Unlike traditional practice, the use of parallel motion [two voices moving in the same direction with the same intervallic relationship] may occur in contemporary music.)

Chords which have root motion in fourths and fifths will have voice leading of the essential chord tones by common tone, chromatic, or whole step:

Cmaj7 D7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-7 D-7 Bb7 C6

The diagram shows the same sequence of five chords as above. The notation is written on a grand staff. Brackets are drawn under the notes in the bass clef to show step-wise root motion between adjacent chords. For example, the root notes in the bass clef move from C to D (up a whole step), D to E (up a whole step), E to F# (up a whole step), F# to G (down a half step), and G to A (up a whole step).

Step-wise root motion will require voice leading by step in parallel or similar motion (movement in the same direction):

Cmaj7 D7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-7 D-7 Bb7 C6

The diagram shows the same sequence of five chords as above. The notation is written on a grand staff. Brackets are drawn under the notes in the bass clef to show step-wise root motion between adjacent chords. The voice leading in the treble clef is also shown, with lines connecting the notes of adjacent chords to illustrate step-wise or similar motion.

Root motion in thirds will usually require that at least one of the essential chord tones is voice led in thirds also:

Cmaj7 D7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-7 D-7 Bb7 C6

The image shows a musical score for a sequence of chords. The chords are: Cmaj7, D7, D-7, G7, F#-7(b5), F-7, D-7, Bb7, and C6. The notation is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The notes are mostly quarter notes. A bracket is drawn under the bass line of the F#-7(b5) and F-7 chords, indicating a specific voice leading or intervallic relationship between these two chords.

Intervallic voice leading larger than thirds is generally not necessary.

GUIDE TONE LINES

The result of the previous voice leading of the essential chord tones is root motion and the two "guide tone lines." Guide tone lines are single lines which are developed by the voice leading of the essential chord tones and guide the listener through the chord progression.

Individual guide tone lines may be one of three configurations: either one of the two lines created from the previous process or a combination of the two lines from the voice-leading process:

Cmaj7 D7 D-7 G7 F#-7(b5) F-7 D-7 Bb7 C6

If the developing guide tone line appears to be approaching the limits of the given range, an adjustment may be made by utilizing one of the following alternatives:

- 1) Within the duration of the chord, it is possible to leap from a guide tone to either:

- a) the same guide tone note an octave higher, or

Cmaj7 A-7 Fmaj7 D-7

- b) another guide tone line.

Cmaj7 A-7 Fmaj7 D-7

2) Or voice leading may be suspended and the line started again at a different pitch level either:

- a) following a cadence to the I chord, or
- b) at the end of a phrase.

The image displays six musical staves, each illustrating voice leading for a sequence of chords in B-flat major. The chords and their corresponding notes are as follows:

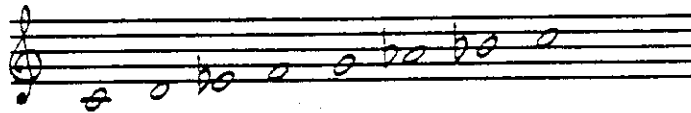
- Staff 1:** Ebmaj7 (E-flat, G, B-flat, D-flat), Bbmaj7 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat), Ebmaj7 (E-flat, G, B-flat, D-flat), Bbmaj7 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat), C-7 (C, E-flat, G, B-flat), F7 (F, A, C, E-flat).
- Staff 2:** Bbmaj7 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat), G7(#9) (G, B-flat, D, F, A-flat, C), 1. C-7 (C, E-flat, G, B-flat), F7 (F, A, C, E-flat), Bbmaj7 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat), 2. C-7 (C, E-flat, G, B-flat), F7 (F, A, C, E-flat), Bb6 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat).
- Staff 3:** Ebmaj7 (E-flat, G, B-flat, D-flat), Eb-6 (E-flat, G, B-flat, D-flat), Bbmaj7 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat), Ebmaj7 (E-flat, G, B-flat, D-flat), Eb-6 (E-flat, G, B-flat, D-flat), Bbmaj7 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat).
- Staff 4:** G7 (G, B-flat, D, F, A-flat), C7 (C, E-flat, G, B-flat), D7 (D, F, A-flat, C), G7 (G, B-flat, D, F, A-flat), C7 (C, E-flat, G, B-flat), F7 (F, A, C, E-flat).
- Staff 5:** G-7 (G, B-flat, D, F, A-flat), D-7 (D, F, A-flat, C), Ebmaj7 (E-flat, G, B-flat, D-flat), Bbmaj7 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat).
- Staff 6:** C-7 (C, E-flat, G, B-flat), F7 (F, A, C, E-flat), Bbmaj7 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat), G7(#9) (G, B-flat, D, F, A-flat, C), C-7 (C, E-flat, G, B-flat), F7 (F, A, C, E-flat), Bb6 (B-flat, D, F, A-flat).

MINOR KEY HARMONY - NATURAL MINOR

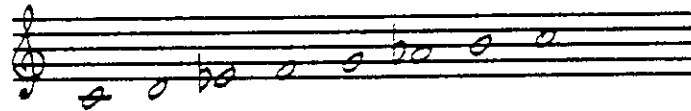
Minor key harmonies are similar to major key harmonies.

The common minor key scales are:

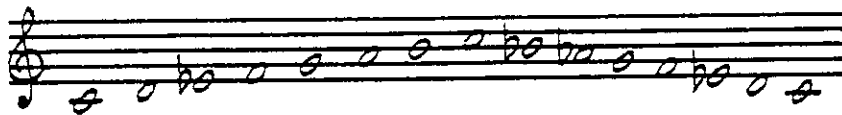
Natural minor:



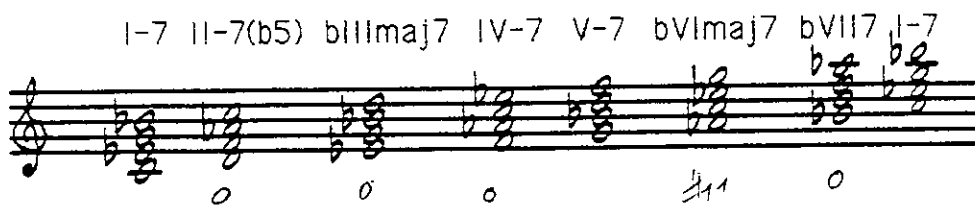
Harmonic minor (natural minor with a raised seventh scale degree):



Melodic minor (natural minor with both a raised sixth and seventh degrees ascending and natural minor descending):



The diatonic chords in natural minor are:



It should be noted that the diatonic chords built upon the third, sixth, and seventh scale degrees are labeled relative to their location above the tonic: a minor third (bIII); a minor sixth (bVI); a minor seventh (bVII).

Since natural minor shares the same diatonic structures as the related major key, the context in which the chords appear determines the tonality, major or minor:

Two musical staves illustrating diatonic chords in C major and C minor. The first staff shows the C major scale with chords: I-7 (C-7) at scale degree 1, IV-7 (F-7) at scale degree 2, V-7 (G-7) at scale degree 3, and I-7 (C-7) at scale degree 4. The second staff shows the C minor scale with chords: I-7 (C-7) at scale degree 5, IV-7 (F-7) at scale degree 6, bVII7 (Bb7) at scale degree 7, and I-7 (C-7) at scale degree 8.

Two important characteristics about the diatonic chords in natural minor are:

- 1) The diatonic chord built upon the dominant scale degree of the key (scale degree 5, the V-7) is not a dominant structure; it does not contain a tritone.
- 2) The diatonic chord which is a dominant seventh chord structure is built upon the seventh scale degree (bVII7).

When observed in context, the V-7 does not receive an arrow for analysis since it is not a dominant chord with resolution down a perfect fifth:

Musical staff showing the C major scale with chords: I-7 (C-7) at scale degree 3, V-7 (G-7) at scale degree 4, and I-7 (C-7) at scale degree 5. The V-7 chord is not marked with an arrow.

The diatonic chord in natural minor which is a dominant structure is not built upon the dominant (5th) scale degree of the key. The bVII7 is an example of a dominant chord without dominant function:

Musical staff showing the C minor scale with chords: IV-7 (F-7) at scale degree 6, bVII7 (Bb7) at scale degree 7, and I-7 (C-7) at scale degree 8.

The typical cadences in natural minor are:

V-7 I-7
 G-7 C-7

V-7 to I-7 (Melodic analysis is included.)

1 Sb2 b3 1

IV-7 I-7
 F-7 C-7

IV-7 to I-7

9 b3 11 1
 or: 9 b3 Sb7 1

bVII7 I-7
 Bb7 C-7

bVII to I-7

13 b7 1 1
 or: 13 b7 Sb7 1

II-7(b5) I-7
 D-7(b5) C-7

II-7(b5) to I-7

11 b5 b13 1
 or: 11 b5 Sb7 1

bVI maj7 I-7
 Ab maj7 C-7

bVI maj7 to I-7

7 S1 9 1
 or: 7 1 Sb7 1

important

AVAILABLE TENSIONS - NATURAL MINOR

The available tensions for diatonic chords in minor tonalities are normally those which are diatonic. However, optional tensions exist which are generated from other forms of minor keys.

Chord:	Available Tensions(s)	Optional Available Tension(s):
I- (triad)	9	
I-7	9, 11	13
II° (triad)		11
II-7(b5)	11	b13
bIII (triad)	9	#11
bIIImaj7	9, 13	#11
IV- (triad)	9	11
IV-6	9, 11	maj7*
IV-7	9, 11	13
→ IV-(maj7)*	9, 11, 13	
V-(triad)		9, 11
V-7	11	9, 13
bVIImaj7	9, #11, 13	
bVII7	9, #11, 13	

*The IV-(maj7) chord is not diatonic to any minor key since it contains scale degree major 3. It is listed here since it is commonly found in place of IV-, IV-6, or IV-7.

HARMONIC MINOR

The lack of dominant seventh motion from V7 to I in natural minor led to the development of harmonic minor. The diatonic chord built upon the 5th scale degree in harmonic minor is dominant:

I-(maj7) II-7(b5) bIII+maj7 IV-7 V7 bVI maj7 VII°7 I-(maj7)

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It displays seven diatonic chords in harmonic minor: I-(maj7) (C-B-A-G), II-7(b5) (D-C-B-A), bIII+maj7 (E-D-C-B), IV-7 (F-E-D-C), V7 (G-F-E-D), bVI maj7 (A-G-F-E), and VII°7 (B-A-G-F). The chords are represented by vertical lines with dots indicating the notes.

This alteration to natural minor for **harmonic** purposes can be seen as the reason for the name **harmonic minor**.

Three unusual diatonic chord structures are found in harmonic minor.

- 1) I-(maj7) is a minor triad with a major seventh.
- 2) bIII+maj7 is an augmented triad with a major seventh.
- 3) VII°7 is a diminished seventh chord.

In harmonic minor, an arrow is used to show dominant resolution from V7 to I-:

Two musical staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff shows a sequence of chords: I- (C-), IV-7 (F-7), V7 (G7), II-7(b5) (D-7(b5)), and I- (C-). An arrow points from the V7 chord to the final I- chord. The second staff shows: bVI maj7 (Abmaj7), V7 (G7), bVI maj7 (Abmaj7), VII°7 (B°7), and I- (C-). The notes are written as quarter notes on a five-line staff.

The typical cadences in harmonic minor are:

V7 to I- [or I-(maj7)]
(melodic analysis is included.)

1 b9 3 1
or: 1 b9 S7 1

IV-7 to I-(maj7)

b3 9 1 b3
or: b3 9 S4 b3

II-7(b5) V7(b9) to I-

11 b9 3 1
or: 11 b9 S7 1

(All root motion is down in perfect fifths.)

VII°7 to I-

T bb7 1 1
or: T bb7 S7 1

[VII°7 can be seen as the upper structure of V7(b9).]

G7(b9) [B-D-F] B°7

bVI(maj7) to I-(maj7)

5 13 MAJ 7 5
or: 5 13 S5 5

AVAILABLE TENSIONS - HARMONIC MINOR

The available tensions for diatonic chords in minor tonalities are normally those which are diatonic. However, optional tensions exist which are generated from other forms of minor keys.

Chord:	Available Tension(s):	Optional Available Tension(s):
I- (triad)	9	
I-(maj7)	9, 11	13
II°(triad)		11
II-7(b5)	11	b13
bIII+ (triad)	9	#11
bIII+maj7	9	#11
IV-(triad)	9	
IV-6	9, 11	maj7 *
IV-7	9, 11	13
IV-(maj7)*	9, 11, 13	
V (triad)		9
V7	b13	9 OR b9 and #9 **
bVI maj7	9, #11, 13	
VII°7	All available tensions must be diatonic and a major ninth above a chord tone. The numbering system to 13 does not work here since there are four potential tensions.	

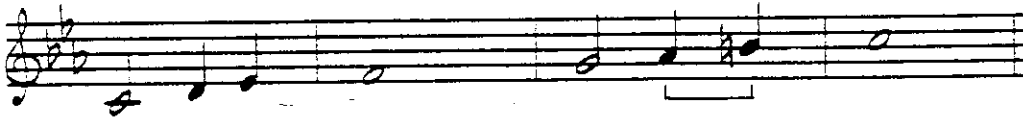
① * The IV-(maj7) chord is not diatonic to any minor key since it contains scale degree major 3. It is listed here since it is commonly found in place of IV-, IV-6, or IV-7.

② ** b5 is sometimes used as a special chord tone on the V7 chord.

MELODIC MINOR

Melodies built from the harmonic minor scale have an unusual sound because of the augmented second interval from scale degrees $b6^{\flat}$ to 7.

Harmonic Minor



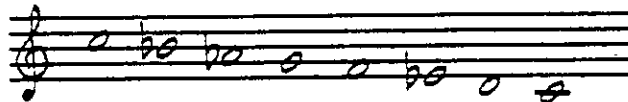
Melodic Minor (ascending)

I-(maj7) II-7 bIII+maj7 IV7 V7 VI-7(b5) VII-7(b5) I-(maj7)



The traditional melodic minor scale above utilizes a raised 6th and 7th scale degrees when ascending melodically. This allows for the use of a dominant seventh chord on the fifth degree of the scale.

The 6th and 7th scale degrees are lowered when descending melodically. The resulting diatonic chords are thus the same as those in natural minor.



The alteration of the harmonic minor scale for **melodic** purposes is the reason for the name "**melodic minor**".

As is the case with the bVII7 of natural minor, the IV7 of melodic minor represents a dominant structure without dominant function:

I-(maj7)	bVI(maj7)	IV7	I-7	bVII7	I-7
C-(maj7)	Ab(maj7)	F7	C-7	Bb7	C-7

A single staff of music for the ascending Melodic Minor scale in C minor with the chord symbols from the table above written above the notes.

IV-7	bIII(maj7)	II-7	V7	I-
F-7	Eb(maj7)	D-7	G7	C-

A single staff of music for the descending Melodic Minor scale in C minor with the chord symbols from the table above written below the notes.

The typical cadences derived from the ascending melodic minor scale are:

V7 → I-

G7 → C-

V7 to I- (Melodic analysis is included.)

1 9 3 1

or: 1 9 S7 1

II-7 → V7 → I-

(All root motion is down in perfect fifths.)

D-7 → G7 → C-

II-7 V7 I-

D-7 G7 C-

11 9 3 1

or: 11 9 S7 1

IV7 → I-

F7 → C-

IV7 I-

F7 C-

9 3 #11 1

or: 9 3 S7 1

II-7 → I-

D-7 → C-

II-7 I-

D-7 C-

11 5 S6 1

VII-7(b5) → I-

B-7(b5) → C-

VII-7(b5) I-

B-7(b5) C-

b13 b7 1 1

or: b13 b7 S7 1

Additional cadential motion may occur using chords generated from the descending melodic minor scale (see the typical cadences of natural minor).

AVAILABLE TENSIONS - MELODIC MINOR

The available tensions for diatonic chords in minor tonalities are normally those which are diatonic. However, optional tensions exist which are generated from other forms of minor keys. The available tensions for the diatonic melodic minor chords derived in its descending form may be found under "Available tensions - natural minor".

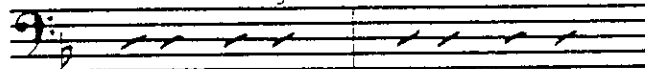
Chord:	Available Tension(s):	Optional Available Tension(s):
I-(triad)	9	
I-6	9, 11	maj7
I-(maj7)	9, 11, 13	
II-(triad)		11
II-7	11	
bIII+(triad)	9	#11
bIII+maj7	9, #11	
IV (triad)	9	#11
→ IV7	9, #11, 13	
V(triad)	9	
V7	b13	9 OR b9 and #9*
VI-7(b5)	11, b13	9
VII-7(b5)	11, b13	

* b5 is sometimes used as a special chord tone on the V7 chord.


LINE CLICHES

A **line cliché** is a single line which moves through a single chord. The line cliché will always move chromatically:

I-	I-(maj7)	I-7	I-6
D-	D-(maj7)	D-7	D-6

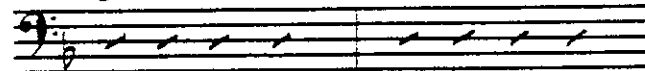


The above line cliché can be identified as the single line:



While the basic chord remains:

I-
D-

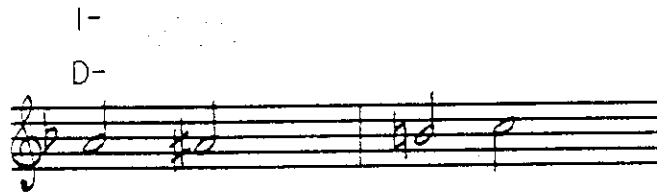


Line clichés are very common to minor key harmonies.

Other characteristics of line clichés are:

- 1) They may occur on the top; in the middle; or, if the line cliché starts on the root of the chord (as the above line cliché does), on the bottom of the voicings.
- 2) They are used as guide tone lines and as lines developed in the voice leading process.
- 3) They always appear in the area of the chord above the 5th and below the root.

Another of the most common line cliches is:



Line cliches do not always continue their motion in the same direction:



When a line cliché is present, the available tensions are those for the triad.

Other line cliches can be found by starting on 6, -7, or maj7 chord degrees and moving chromatically:



Though line cliches are fundamentally associated with minor tonalities, they may be seen in major key harmonies. Most often on the I or IV chords:

I D IV G

or on the II- or VI- or IV- chords. When the line cliché occurs on the II- chord, it often progresses to the V7 chord:

II- E- V7 A7

II- to V7 in D major.

VI- B-

VI- in D major.

IV- G-

IV- in D major.

Less often the line cliché may appear on the III- chord.

MODAL INTERCHANGE

MODAL INTERCHANGE IS THE BORROWING OF DIATONIC CHORDS FROM A PARALLEL MODE (SCALE) AND USING THEM IN THE PRIMARY KEY:

	F-7	G-7(b5)	AbMaj7	Bb-7	C-7	Dbmaj7	Eb7	F-7
Primary key: (natural minor)								
	F-(maj7)	G-7	Ab+maj7	Bb7	C7	D-7(b5)	E-7(b5)	F-(maj7)
Parallel key: (melodic minor)								

Modal interchange between minor tonalities is a very common harmonic practice in contemporary minor key tunes:

F natural minor:

F-7	Bb-7	Eb7	C-7	
F-7	G-7	F-7	C-7	F-7
Borrowed from F melodic minor				

The use of minor tonality chords in major key harmonies is a commonly found example of modal interchange. Such chords are borrowed from the parallel minor key (the key of I-), and used in the parallel major key (the key of I major).

	Fmaj7	G-7	A-7	Bbmaj7	C7	D-7	E-7(b5)	Fmaj7
Primary key: (F major)								
	F-7	G-7(b5)	Abmaj7	Bb-7	C-7	Dbmaj7	Eb7	F-7
Parallel key: (F natural minor)								

The natural minor modal interchange chords borrowed for major key use are: IV-, IV-6, IV-(maj7), IV-7 (all the forms of the IV- chord.):

IV-	I maj7	IV-6	I maj7	IV-7	I maj7	IV-(maj7)	I maj7
Bb-	Fmaj7	Bb-6	Fmaj7	Bb-7	Fmaj7	Bb-(maj7)	Fmaj7

bVI maj7:

bVI maj7:	I maj7
Dbmaj7	Fmaj7

bVII7:

bVII7:	I maj7
Eb7	Fmaj7

The harmonic minor modal interchange chords borrowed for major key use are:

II-7(b5)	V7(b9)	II-7(b5)	V7(b9)	I maj7
G-7(b5)	C7(b9)	Fmaj7		

bVIIImaj7, though not diatonic to any minor key, is a very common modal interchange chord:

bVIIImaj7	IImaj7
Ebmaj7	Fmaj7

The musical notation shows two chords in the bass clef. The first chord, Ebmaj7, is represented by a whole note on the second line (G4), a whole note on the second space (Bb4), a whole note on the third space (D5), and a whole note on the third line (Eb5). The second chord, Fmaj7, is represented by a whole note on the first space (F4), a whole note on the second space (A4), a whole note on the second line (C5), and a whole note on the second space (Eb5).

bIIImaj7, though not diatonic to any minor key, is a very common modal interchange chord.

The tonic natural minor chords I-, I-7, bIII, and bIIIImaj7 are also found as modal interchange chords in major:

IImaj7	I-7	IImaj7	I-7
Fmaj7	F-7	Fmaj7	F-7

The musical notation shows two chords in the bass clef. The first chord, Fmaj7, is represented by a whole note on the first space (F4), a whole note on the second space (A4), a whole note on the second line (C5), and a whole note on the second space (Eb5). The second chord, F-7, is represented by a whole note on the first space (F4), a whole note on the second space (Ab4), a whole note on the second line (C5), and a whole note on the second space (Eb5).

IImaj7	bIIIImaj7	IImaj7	bIIIImaj7
Fmaj7	Abmaj7	Fmaj7	Abmaj7

The musical notation shows two chords in the bass clef. The first chord, Fmaj7, is represented by a whole note on the first space (F4), a whole note on the second space (A4), a whole note on the second line (C5), and a whole note on the second space (Eb5). The second chord, Abmaj7, is represented by a whole note on the first space (F4), a whole note on the second space (Ab4), a whole note on the second line (C5), and a whole note on the second space (Eb5).

The available tensions for modal interchange chords are the same as listed in their minor key context.

RELATED II-7 CHORDS

The full cadence is represented by the progression of subdominant to dominant to tonic chords:

A musical staff in G major showing a full cadence. The subdominant (SD) chord is Bb7, the dominant (D) chord is C7, and the tonic (T) chord is F major. An arrow points from C7 to F. The bass line shows the roots: Bb, C, and F.

The most common variation of the full cadence has strong root motion of perfect fifths throughout:

A musical staff in G major showing a variation of a full cadence. The subdominant (SD) chord is G7, the dominant (D) chord is C7, and the tonic (T) chord is F major. An arrow points from C7 to F. The bass line shows the roots: G, C, and F, with arrows indicating the perfect fifth root motion between G-C and C-F.

Just as an arrow is used to show the perfect fifth root motion between the dominant chord and its chord of resolution, the relationship between the II-7 and the dominant V7 is so strong as to require recognition. A solid bracket beneath the II-7 V7 is used to show the perfect fifth root motion:

A musical staff in G major showing the relationship between the II-7 chord (G7) and the V7 chord (C7). A solid bracket is drawn beneath the G7 and C7 chords, indicating the perfect fifth root motion between G and C. The tonic chord F major is also shown.

The above progression is all diatonic; II-7, down a perfect fifth to V7, down a perfect fifth to I. This II-7 V7 relationship is so strong that: ANY DOMINANT CHORD MAY BE PRECEDED BY ITS RELATED II-7 CHORD.

A-7 D7 D-7 G7 G-7 C7 C-7 F7 F-7 Bb7 Bb-7 Eb7 Eb-7 Ab7
 Ab-7 Db7 Db-7 Gb7 F*-7 B7 B-7 E7 E-7 A7

The related II-7 chord of some secondary dominants will also be diatonic. Such diatonic minor seventh chords have DUAL FUNCTION.

The diatonic analysis and the bracket show the dual function. The available tensions for dual function chords (III-7, VI-7, VII-7(b5)) are usually diatonic.

Other related II-7 chords which are not diatonic have available tensions from the key of the moment:

The $\underline{\quad}$ relation may appear as $\text{II-7(b5)} \rightarrow \text{V7(b9)}$ (as in harmonic minor):

II-7(b5)
 G7(b5)

V7(b9)
 C7(b9)

Imaj7
 Fmaj7

I^6
 F^6

Indeed, any of the following variations to the $\underline{\quad}$ may occur without changing the dominant function of the V7 chord:

$\text{G7} \rightarrow \text{C7} \rightarrow \text{F}$

$\text{G7(b5)} \rightarrow \text{C7(b9)} \rightarrow \text{F}$

$\text{G7} \rightarrow \text{C7(\#9)} \rightarrow \text{F}$

$\text{G7(b5)} \rightarrow \text{C7(9)} \rightarrow \text{F}$

Harmonic rhythm directly affects the $\frac{II-7}{I}$ relationship. With the inclusion of a dominant chord's related $II-7$, harmonic activity is increased without deterring from the dominant resolution. The harmonic rhythm of the $\frac{II-7}{I}$ may be even:

Two musical staves illustrating even harmonic rhythm for the $\frac{B-7}{E^7} \rightarrow A$ progression. The first staff shows a 4-measure phrase with chords $B-7$, E^7 , A , and a final measure with a fermata. The second staff shows a 4-measure phrase with chords $B-7$, E^7 , A , and a final measure with a fermata. Rhythmic patterns S , W , s , w are indicated below the notes.

or the $II-7$ may appear for longer duration than the dominant:

Two musical staves illustrating the $II-7$ chord appearing for longer duration than the dominant. The first staff shows a 4-measure phrase with chords $C-7$, E^7 , B^b , and a final measure with a fermata. The second staff shows a 4-measure phrase with chords $C-7$, E^7 , B^b , and a final measure with a fermata. Rhythmic patterns S , W , s , w are indicated below the notes.

or, less often, the dominant chord may appear for longer duration than the $II-7$:

Two musical staves illustrating the dominant chord appearing for longer duration than the $II-7$. The first staff shows a 4-measure phrase with chords $A-7$, D^7 , G , and a final measure with a fermata. The second staff shows a 4-measure phrase with chords $A-7$, D^7 , G , and a final measure with a fermata. Rhythmic patterns S , W , s , w are indicated below the notes.

Therefore, the II-7 will appear on a strong stress, the V7 on a weaker stress, and the resolution will be to a strong stress.

A may repeat prior to progressing:

A musical staff in treble clef showing a sequence of chords: D-7, G7, D-7, G7, E-7, A7, E-7, A7. Above the staff, Roman numerals are written: II-7, V7, II-7, V7/I, III-7, V7/II, E-7, V7/II. Arrows indicate the resolution from each V7 chord to the following II-7 chord.

Line cliches commonly occur with a II-7 V7:

A musical staff in treble clef showing a line cliché: D-7, G7, Cmaj7. Arrows indicate the resolution from D-7 to G7 and from G7 to Cmaj7. Below the staff, dynamic markings are written: (p, #p, 4p, p).

Related II-7 chords of extended dominants may be either the chord of resolution:

Two musical staves in bass clef showing related II-7 chords of extended dominants. The first staff shows A-7, D7, G-7, C7. The second staff shows F-7, Bb7, Eb-7, Ab7. Arrows indicate the resolution from each V7 chord to the following II-7 chord.

or, they will be INTERPOLATED prior to the chord of resolution (the extended V7):

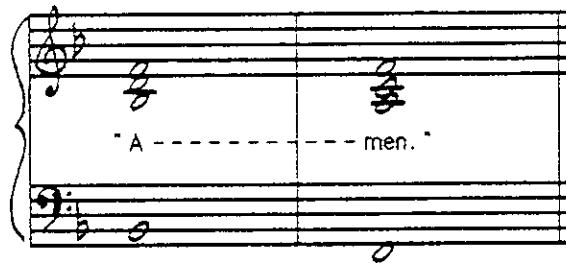
A musical staff in bass clef showing interpolated II-7 chords: A-7, D7, D-7, G7, G-7, C7, C-7, F7. Arrows indicate the resolution from each V7 chord to the following II-7 chord.

BLUES

Blues harmonies have their basis in early American church music. The primary cadence used in hymns of the Protestant church has been subdominant (with dominant cadence being of less importance). Subdominant cadence is traditionally called "plagal cadence":

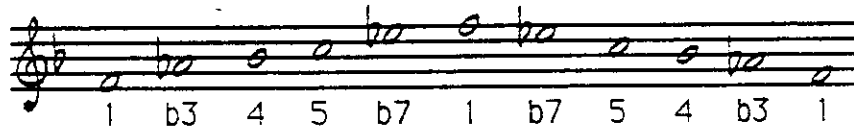


Typical of plagal cadence is the sound of "A-men", used following most hymns:



Thus, the primary chords found in blues are the I and IV chords (and occasionally the V7 chord).

The basic scale used for blues melodies is a pentatonic (5 note) scale, but NOT the major pentatonic scale. The blues scale is NOT diatonic to the harmonies:



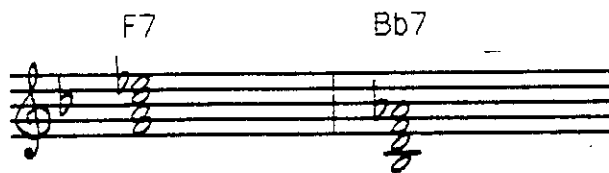
The above blues scale (scale degrees 1, b3, 4, 5, b7, 1) can be seen as a minor pentatonic scale. The important characteristic of the blues scale is its exclusion of any half steps and the relationships it creates with the major key harmonies; the scale degrees b3 and b7 being the basis for the minor pentatonic scale create an unusual sound when supported by the major key harmonies. This melodic relationship results in what is called "blues notes":



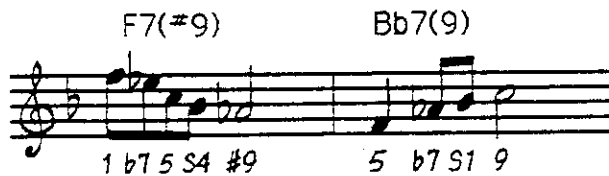
When the blues melodic pitches are superimposed over the basic harmonic structures, the extensions for the seventh degrees of the fundamental chords can be added:



The I and IV triads therefore become I7 and IV7 respectively:



The basic available tensions for the primary chords are those which appear melodically:



An exception to the previous observations regarding available tensions should be noted in the case of the 17(#9) chord in blues. Though b9 and #9 normally may coexist, b9 should not be used with #9 on the 17 in blues since it is not part of the blues scale.

The blues form has its origins in the poetic form used for the improvisation of lyrics. The lyrical content of blues is based on a "rhymed couplet" with the first line of the couplet repeated (to allow for additional time to improvise the second line). The rhythm of the lyrics can be notated as dotted quarter, eighth notes with five stressed pulsations (this lyrical rhythm is known as "iambic pentameter"):

By studying the stress placement of the melody and lyrics, it can be noted what the overall form will be:

Sung lyrics - First couplet line _ _ _ _

Sung lyrics - Repeated first line _ _ _

Sung lyrics - Second couplet line _ _ _

The above will therefore be a 12 measure form (also known as "12 bar blues").

The placement of the primary chords follows a logical sequence: the I7 chord receives the most stress; it will also be cadenced to from the IV7 chord. In order to have a variance during the repeating of the first line of the couplet, the IV7 chord is used with a cadence to I7; the final line of the couplet contains the final cadence:

The image shows three staves of musical notation, each representing a 4-measure phrase in a blues style. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It starts with an F7 chord above the first measure. The melody consists of quarter notes: F4, Bb4, F4, Bb4 in the first two measures, followed by a cadence (F4, Bb4) in the third measure, and a whole note F4 in the fourth measure. Below the staff, a dashed line indicates the first two measures as the 'First couplet line' and the last two as 'Strum'. The second staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. It starts with a Bb7 chord above the first measure and an F7 chord above the third measure. The melody consists of quarter notes: Bb3, F3, Bb3, F3 in the first two measures, followed by a cadence (Bb3, F3) in the third measure, and a whole note Bb3 in the fourth measure. Below the staff, a dashed line indicates the first two measures as 'First couplet line repeated (lyrics and melody)' and the last two as 'Strum'. The third staff is in treble clef with the same key signature. It starts with a Bb7 chord above the first measure and an F7 chord above the third measure. The melody consists of quarter notes: Bb4, F4, Bb4, F4 in the first two measures, followed by a cadence (Bb4, F4) in the third measure, and a whole note Bb4 in the fourth measure. Below the staff, a dashed line indicates the first two measures as 'Second couplet line with cadence' and the last two as 'Strum'.

It should be noted that all the lyrical content of a fundamental blues, as the one above, is within the first 2 measures of each 4 measure phrase; the remaining 2 measures begins with a cadence and the chordal content is the I7 chord. Since blues was most often performed by a soloist, accompanying himself/herself, the last 2 measures of each 4 measure phrase came to be known as the "strum", for obvious reasons.

The next higher level of complexity would be for blues harmonies to contain dominant motion. This action would then incorporate diatonic sounds from major key harmony.

I7
 F7
 IV7
 Bb7
 I7
 F7
 IV7
 Bb7
 V7
 C7
 I7
 F7

Dominant cadence

The basic blues melodic scale has become more complex also; it now contains chromatic motion between the 4th and 5th scale degrees - b5 or #4. The contemporary blues notes are b3, b5 (#4), b7:

1 b3 4 #4 5 b7 1 b7 5 b5 4 b3 1

AVAILABLE TENSIONS - BASIC BLUES

The available tensions for the three basic blues chords are those from the extended structures which meet the previous criteria: diatonic to the blues scale and either a 9th, or a #9th or an allowable b9th above a chord tone:

Chord:	Normal blues structure:	Optional Structure with diatonic major key tensions:
I7	I7 (#9)	I7 (#9, 13) OR I7 (9, 13)
IV7	IV7 (9)	IV7 (9, 13)
V7	V7 (#9)	V7 (b9, #9, b13) OR V7 (9, 13)

(Any diatonic chords or secondary dominants from major key harmonies will have available tensions from their major key context.)

BLUES VARIATIONS

There is one important characteristic which can be seen in all blues: the placement of the primary chords within the 12 measure form:

Tonic

First couplet line _____ Strum _____

Subdominant **Tonic**

First couplet line repeated _____ Strum _____

Cadence **Tonic**

Second couplet line _____ Strum _____

Variations to blues demonstrate this pattern in two different ways:

- 1) Harmonic motion from and back to the primary chord in each area of the form, and/or
- 2) Harmonic motion to the next primary chord.

Thus, a tonic chord will appear in the first measure; any subsequent harmonic activity in the first 4 measure phrase will be back to a tonic chord and/or motion to the subdominant chord which will appear in measure 5:

Tonic
F7

Subdominant
Bb7

Tonic
F7

A-7(b5)

Subdominant
Bb7

9 10 11 12

In the above example, there is a subdominant cadence back to the primary chord (tonic) from measure 2 to 3; measure 4 contains a commonly used blues chord which approaches the IV7 chord. The III-7(b5) chord can be identified as an upper structure of the I9 chord (which may also be seen as the secondary dominant of IV7 [V7/IV]):

17 or
V7/IV

III-7(b5)

A-7(b5)

Measures 5 and 6 will start with the subdominant and contain motion back to subdominant and/or have movement to tonic in measure 7:

Treble Clef Staff:
 Measure 1: Tonic F7
 Measure 2: Bb7
 Measure 3: F7
 Measure 4: A-7(b5)

Bass Clef Staff:
 Measure 5: Sub-dominant Bb7
 Measure 6: F7
 Measure 7: Bb7, B°7
 Measure 8: Tonic F7/C

Empty Bass Clef Staff:
 Measure 9:
 Measure 10:
 Measure 11:
 Measure 12:

The B°7 occurring in measure 6 is another commonly found blues chord. The #IV°7 chord is an approach chord to I from IV; most often the resolution of its root is chromatic and therefore the I7 chord appears inverted:

Bass Clef Staff:
 Measure 6: Bb7, B°7
 Measure 7: F7/C

Measures 7 and 8 start with the tonic and either move back to tonic and/or have motion to cadence chords in measures 9 and 10. The cadential motion may be either dominant, subdominant, and/or modal interchange cadence chords borrowed from minor:

Tonic F7 Bb7 F7 A-7(b5)
 1 2 3 4
 Subdominant Bb7 F7 Bb7 B°7 Tonic F7/C Bb7 F7 D7
 5 6 7 8
 Cadence G-7 C7 Bb7 Eb7 Tonic F7
 9 10 11 12

The above cadential motion contains dominant (C7 - V7), subdominant (Bb7 - IV7), and a non-dominant chord borrowed from natural minor (Eb7 - bVII7).

Since measures 11 and 12 begin with the tonic and the first measure is also tonic, any harmonic motion here will be back to tonic:

Tonic
 F7 Bb7 F7 A-7(b5)

Sub-dominant
 Bb7 F7 Bb7 B°7 Tonic
 F7/C Bb7 F7 D7

Cadence Tonic
 G-7 C7 Bb7 Eb7 F7 D7 G7 C7

Another contemporary blues chord (also found in major key harmonies) has its basis in subdominant cadence. In the following blues progression there appears a IV of the I chord and a IV/IV (IV of the IV chord):

I IV I I IV I
 G C G G C G

IV IV/IV IV I IV I
 C F C G C G

IV IV/IV IV V7 I IV I
 C F C D7 G C G

In a more complex situation, the same chord (IV/IV) would be analyzed as bVII:

The diagram illustrates three different harmonic analyses of a 12-measure blues progression in G major. Each staff represents a different perspective on the same sequence of chords.

- Staff 1:** Shows the progression as I⁷ (G⁷), IV⁷ (C⁷), bVII⁷ (F⁷), I⁷ (G⁷), and III^{-7(b5)} (B^{-7(b5)}).
- Staff 2:** Shows the progression as IV⁷ (C⁷), bVII⁷ (F⁷), I⁷ (G⁷), and V⁷/_{II} (E⁷). An arrow points from the V⁷/_{II} chord to the next measure, indicating a resolution.
- Staff 3:** Shows the progression as II⁻⁷ (A⁻⁷), V⁷ (D⁷), bVII⁷ (F⁷), and I⁷ (G⁷). An arrow points from the II⁻⁷ chord to the V⁷ chord, indicating a resolution.

The following chart includes examples of blues progressions. The 12 measure form and placement of the primary chords adheres to the previous requirements. Note that some of the examples use blues chords only, some use major key harmonies and some use minor key harmonies.

TONIC SUBDOMINANT TONIC CADENCE-----TONIC

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

F7 Bb7 F7 Bb7 Eb7

F7 D7 G-7 C7 Bb7 F7 Bb7

F-7 Bb-7 F-7 F7 Bb-7 C7(b9)

F-7 Abmaj7 G-7(b5) C7(*9) F-7 Bb-7

Fmaj7 E-7 A7 D-7 G7 C7 F7 Bbmaj7 Bb-6

Fmaj7 A-7 D7 G7 C7 Bb7 Eb7 Fmaj7 G-7 A-7 Bb-7

F7 E7 A7 D7 G7 C7 F7 Bb7 Bb-7 Eb7

F7 Eb7 D7 G-7/C C7 Db Gb F7 Eb7

F7 Bb7 F7 F7 Eb7 F7 Bb7 Eb7 Bb7

F7 Bb7 F7 Bb7 Eb7 Bb7 Eb7 A-7 D7 G-7 C7(sus4)

7 8 9 10 11 12

TONIC SUBDOMINANT TONIC CADENCE----- TONIC

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

F6 G-7 A-7 G-7 Fmaj7 Abmaj7 Bb6 Bb-6

1 2 3 4 5 6

A-7 D7(*9) G-7(b5) C7(*9,b9) F6 A-7(b5) Bb-7

7 8 9 10 11 12

F-6 Bb7 C7 F-(maj7) Dbmaj7 Bb-(maj7) Bb-7 Bb-6

1 2 3 4 5 6

Abmaj7 D9 G7 C7 Gbmaj7 F-(maj7) Bb-6

7 8 9 10 11 12

F7 Bb7 Bb7 F7/C A-7(b5) Bbmaj7 Bb-7 Eb7

1 2 3 4 5 6

Abmaj7 Dbmaj7 C7 Eb7 G-7 Bb-7 F7 D7 G7 C7

7 8 9 10 11 12

F7 A-7(b5) Bb7 Bb7 F7(sus4) F7 A-7(b5) Bb7 Gbmaj7

1 2 3 4 5 6

F7 Eb7 Abmaj7 Dbmaj7 C7(sus4) Bb7(sus4) F Abmaj7 Dbmaj7 Gbmaj7

7 8 9 10 11 12

F Bb F Bb F F7 Eb Bb Eb Bb Eb7

1 2 3 4 5 6

F Bb F Eb Bb Eb Bb Eb7 F Bb

7 8 9 10 11 12