

Secondary Dominants

It's a secondary dominant if:

*The chord is altered so that a minor chord is made into a major chord by raising the 3rd (or made into a major-minor 7th chord by also adding a minor 7th).

*The chord is altered so that a major chord is made into a major-minor 7th chord by adding a minor 7th.

*The altered chord then progresses like a dominant chord (root up a P4th) to a tonicized major or minor chord (*not* a diminished or augmented chord).

Diatonic Version

>>> COMPARE >>>

Chromatic Version

The first system shows two musical phrases. The left phrase (Diatonic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), ii (D minor), and V (G major). The right phrase (Chromatic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), V⁽⁷⁾/V (D7), and V (G major). The bass line for both phrases starts on C and moves to G.

I

ii

V

I

V⁽⁷⁾/V

V

The second system shows two musical phrases. The left phrase (Diatonic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), iii (E minor), and vi (A minor). The right phrase (Chromatic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), V⁽⁷⁾/vi (E7), and vi (A minor). The bass line for both phrases starts on C and moves to A.

I

iii

vi

I

V⁽⁷⁾/vi

vi

The third system shows two musical phrases. The left phrase (Diatonic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), vi (A minor), and ii (D minor). The right phrase (Chromatic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), V⁽⁷⁾/ii (D7), and ii (D minor). The bass line for both phrases starts on C and moves to D.

I

vi

ii

I

V⁽⁷⁾/ii

ii

The fourth system shows two musical phrases. The left phrase (Diatonic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), a whole rest, and IV (F major). The right phrase (Chromatic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), V⁷/IV* (F7), and IV (F major). The bass line for both phrases starts on C and moves to F.

I

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IV

I

V⁷/IV*

IV

*must be a maj-min 7th chord

The fifth system shows two musical phrases. The left phrase (Diatonic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), vii° (B diminished), and iii (E minor). The right phrase (Chromatic Version) consists of three chords: I (C major), V⁽⁷⁾/iii (E7), and iii (E minor). The bass line for both phrases starts on C and moves to E.

I

vii°

iii

I

V⁽⁷⁾/iii

iii