LearnMusic Theory, net 3.5 Neapolitan Chords

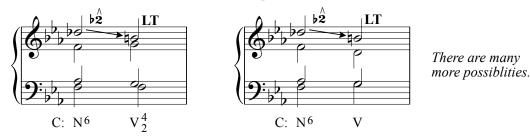
Definition and Harmonic Function

- 1. *Major triad* built on the lowered second scale step (*b2*).
- 2. Often in *first inversion* (hence the common name "Neapolitan sixth chord").
- 3. Usually resolves to V or cadential 6/4.
- 4. More common in minor keys because it requires 2 accidentals in major keys, 1 in minor keys.
- 5. The N can be tonicized with its own secondary dominant; modulations to the Neapolitan are also possible.



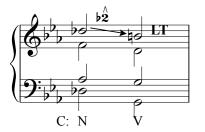
Part-writing First Inversion Neapolitan (N6 or bII6)

- 1. The *b2 note resolves to the leading tone*.
- 2. In first inversion, *double the third* in the Neapolitan.



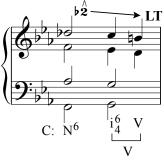
Part-writing Root Position Neapolitan (N or bII)

- 1. In root position, *double the root* of the Neapolitan.
- 2. The b2 note still resolves to the leading tone.
- 2. The bass will resolve down a diminished 5th to V or cadential 6/4.



Delaying the Dominant Harmony

Sometimes the dominant harmony is delayed by a *cadential 6/4 chord*. The *b2 note* still resolves to the *leading tone* eventually, but moves down by step first.



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