3.9 Enharmonic Reinterpretation

Enharmonic reinterpretation is a technique that allows composers to approach a chord in one key, respell one or more notes, and resolve the chord into an entirely different key. It is mostly found in 19th-century music.

1. V7 and Ger+6
Respell the top note of the +6 (or the 7th of the V7) to convert a Ger+6 to a V7 (or V7 to Ger+6).
Modulates to a key a half step away.

Example of Reinterpretation: V7 becomes Ger+6

2. Fully-diminished Seventh Chords
Respell any fully-diminished 7th chord using any note (3rd, 5th, or 7th) as the new root.
Modulates to keys a minor third or tritone away.

Example of Reinterpretation: F# to C as roots

3. Fr+6 to Fr+6
Respell both notes of one of the major thirds to convert a Fr+6 to a different Fr+6.
Modulates to a key a tritone away.
This example respells the top major 3rd; at times it is easier to respell the bottom major third instead.

Example of Reinterpretation: C# to F# and C to G

4. III+ chords
Like diminished seventh chords, augmented triads can be respelled with any note (3rd or 5th) as the new root.
III+ is the only diatonic augmented triad in the major/minor key system.

Example of Reinterpretation: G becomes F# and E becomes D#