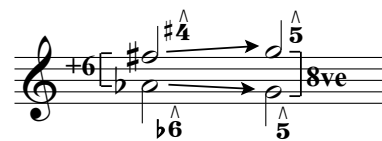


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3.6 Augmented Sixth Chords

Augmented Sixth Chords (+6 chords)

- +6 chords are based on resolving to an octave by half steps in contrary motion.
- The +6 is usually between the lowered sixth scale step (already lowered in minor keys) and the raised fourth scale step.
- Inversions are not notated on +6 chords, but some authors use "°3" if the +6 interval is inverted.
- There are three main types of +6 chords: Italian, French, and German.



Most Common Types

1. Italian +6 (It+6)

+6 plus M3 = It+6

2. French +6 (Fr+6)

It+6 plus M2 = Fr+6
 above
 "center note"

3. German +6 (Ger+6)

It+6 plus m3 = Ger+6
 above
 "center note"

Part-writing +6 Chords

- For It+6, double the note that is *not* part of the +6 interval. Fr+6 and Ger+6 have 4 different notes.
- The *raised fourth scale step* resolves *up a half step*.
- The *lowered sixth scale step* resolves *down a half step*.
- Ger+6 chords often resolve to a cadential 6/4 chord before V, to avoid parallel fifths.

Italian +6:

C: It+6 V

French +6:

C: Fr+6 V

German +6:

c: Ger+6 cad⁶/₄ V

Part-writing +6 to V7: The "SLIDE"

When any +6 chord resolves to V7, the raised fourth scale degree "*slides*" down to become the 7th of the V7 chord.

C: Fr+6 V7

Other +6 Chords and Resolutions (Less Common)

- A note other than the lowered sixth step of the scale may be in the bass (order of parts rearranged).
- The +6 **interval** may resolve to the root of a chord other than V. In this case, you label it as "+6/x" where x is *the roman numeral for the step of the scale to which the +6 interval resolves*.
- The +6 interval may resolve to the third or fifth of a chord instead of its root.
- Some +6 chords contain notes other than a M2 or m3 above the "center note."
- Swiss+6** = A Ger+6 chord in a major key spelled with an aug. 2nd (not m3) above the "center note."